

Two Egyptian foreign ministers quit over Sadat visit to Israel

Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, and Mr Muhammad Riad, his deputy, resigned yesterday as Arab protests mounted over President Sadat's decision to visit Israel. In a letter to the President, Mr Fahmy said that he

could not carry on his duties "because of new circumstances". Meanwhile Mr Sadat announced that he would fly to Israel tomorrow and Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, postponed a visit to Britain.

Historic journey starts tomorrow

From Edward Mortimer
Damascus, Nov 17

President Sadat announced tonight that he will fly to Israel on Saturday evening for a historic visit, despite the public disapproval of President Assad of Syria, with whom he has been holding discussions over the resignations of Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, and his deputy, Mr Muhammad Riad.

The Egyptian leader had said in a press conference before leaving Damascus this morning that Mr Fahmy was the only person who knew about his plan to visit Israel before he announced it to the Egyptian Parliament last week.

However, Mr Fahmy and his staff were conspicuously absent from the presidential delegation which flew into Damascus yesterday, although hotel rooms had been booked for them and, according to one report, Mr Fahmy's baggage arrived on the presidential aircraft.

Shortly after Mr Sadat left Damascus a bomb exploded near the Egyptian Embassy here. Mr Fahmy was appointed Foreign Minister immediately after the Middle East war in October, 1973, and for a long time was strongly identified with President Sadat's pro-Arab foreign policy. But since Mr Sadat's visit to Moscow in June there have been some hints of policy differences between the two.

Recently Mr Fahmy has appeared to adopt a firmer line than the President in the pro-Arab arguments with Israel about a reconvening of the Geneva peace conference last weekend, during the Arab League ministers' conference in Jeddah, he had the difficult task of individual policy in a pro-Arab gathering.

He apparently told his colleagues that Mr Sadat would seriously not go to Israel unless the Egyptian Government accepted the principle of total withdrawal from the occupied territories. If that is correct, it was no doubt the realization that the Pres-



Resigned: Mr Ismail Fahmy, Egyptian Foreign Minister.



Resigned: Mr Muhammad Riad, acting Foreign Minister.

dent seriously meant to go with any preconditions that led him to resign.

The disagreement between Mr Assad and Mr Sadat was first announced by the Egyptian President at his press conference this morning. But whereas he tried to minimize its importance and suggested that the difference was merely tactical, Mr

Assad told reporters at the airport after seeing Mr Sadat off that he felt "profound sadness, especially that we are differing on a decisive issue", and said that Syria would now have to reconsider its policy very thoroughly.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes: The official Middle East News Agency reported that in a letter to President Sadat Mr Fahmy said he could not carry on his duties "because of new circumstances in the present situation".

The agency also reported Mr Riad's resignation. It said that he had earlier been asked by Mr Sadat to take over from Mr Fahmy. Mr Boutros Ghali, Minister of State in the Cabinet, is to be acting Foreign Minister.

The invitation to visit Israel, coupled with a letter from President Carter, was handed by the United States Ambassador to Egypt to President Sadat in Ismailia this evening. Tel Aviv: Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said he had put off his own trip to Britain, due to have started on Sunday, because of Mr Sadat's historic visit.

The news that Mr Sadat would arrive on Saturday took most Israeli officials by surprise. It had generally been expected that he would be here some time next week after Mr Begin's London visit. A spokesman at Mr Begin's office said Mr Sadat will on Sunday call at the El Agoua mosque in Jerusalem, the third holiest shrine in Islam. After that he will go on to fulfil his wish to address a full session of the Knesset (Parliament), putting the Arab case on securing peace in the Middle East.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Mr Begin was in touch with Mr Callaghan by telephone last night and the two men agreed to postpone his visit. He will now come when a new date can be arranged, but there is no indication of when this might be.

United States administration, page 8

Hope fades of money supply being on target

By David Blake

Senior ministers are now recoiled at being almost certainly unable to bring the growth of money supply down to the 13 per cent upper limit, the Government's target for this year. Instead, they intend to keep firm control over the growth of money in the coming months, even this may not be able to undo all the rapid growth caused by the intervention to keep down the value of the pound.

An important element of their "best efforts" approach towards keeping within the money supply guidelines is likely to be a decision to let interest rates rise soon as money growth is succeeded by rapid growth in the banking month to mid-November. By the end of the year, the target is set at 13 per cent, which is the broadly defined money stock in which the targets are currently expressed, is likely to be around 14 to 15 per cent.

The government's hope is that financial markets will see this growth as acceptable in view of the inflows which occurred in the summer, thus upturning calculations on which Mr Healey's 9 to 13 per cent "preferred range" was based.

Even the degree of overshoot, which is expected rules out any loosening of domestic money supply in the coming months. However, in the event of the growth of the money supply to below 13 per cent would it be thought, require such a rigid restriction of bank lending that it would totally destroy

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The baby, whose name has not yet been announced, was carried by Miss Delphine Stephens, a midwife, who was present at the birth. She handed him to Princess Anne in the car. Sister Zohra Abrov, one of the nursing staff also involved in caring for the Princess, carried a Paddington Bear to the car. The bear, in its blue duffle coat, is the gift of a medical student. The Princess and her family left after saying goodbye to those who had nursed her.

Our Morning Correspondent writes: The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents criticized the princess for carrying her baby in the front seat of the car and for not wearing a seat belt during the drive from the hospital.

Anger in France over Croissant handover

From Ian Murray
Paris, Nov 17

The night-time delivery by France of Herr Klaus Croissant, the East German defence lawyer, to the West German authorities has brought a storm of protest here.

As Herr Croissant was deposited in Stammheim prison, Stuttgart, where three of the Bader-Meinhof group's leaders were officially stated to have committed suicide last month, legal circles and the left in France demanded a total suspension of extraditions until the law had been reviewed.

His extradition was agreed by the French Government yesterday evening after the Court of Appeal found that the West German lawyer should be sent back to Germany on part of one of the two warrants against him. Before there was technically time to lodge an appeal, he was on his way.

The anger in France stems from the technicality by which the authorities were able to extradite him before an appeal could be heard. As soon as the hearing before the Court of Appeal ended, the defence gave notice that it would appeal to the Supreme Court and also prepare a hearing before the Conseil d'Etat should the Government agree to the extradition.

2p rise in price of large loaf

By Hugh Clayton

Bread prices will rise by up to 2p on a large loaf and 1p on a small one next week. It will be one of the largest increases on bread since devaluation in 1971, and the first important food price rise authorised by the new Price Commission.

The commission took the unusual step of issuing a detailed statement about its decision with a sharp warning to the rest of industry not to conduct its claims in the manner chosen by the bakers.

Mr Charles Williams, chairman of the commission, said: "The commission disapproves of notification being aired in public. Who can say in the future whether publicity will modify the commission's attitude to a notification?"

Bakers said earlier in the month that they needed a rise of at least 2 1/2p on a large loaf, for which one of the main culprits would be EEC farm

African role delays Cuban link with US

From Hedrick Smith
Washington, Nov 17

The White House is disturbed by the expanding Cuban military presence in Angola, Ethiopia and other African countries and sees no possibility of re-establishing full diplomatic relations with Havana in these circumstances, senior officials said yesterday.

Disclosing new evidence of several hundred Cuban soldiers killed in combat in Angola, the officials interpret the Cuban build-up there and the Cuban military presence in 11 other African countries as a deliberate strategy by President Castro to intervene in Africa much as he promoted Cuban revolutionary intervention in Latin America in the early 1960s.

By American estimates, the Cubans have sent 4,000 to 5,000 new troops to Angola since July, increasing their total strength there to about 19,000 soldiers and 4,000 civilian advisers. The White House is also concerned that the Cuban involvement in Africa may be encouraged by the Soviet Union. — New York Times News Service.

RAF fire-fighting teams drafted into big towns

By Martin Huckerby

Trained RAF crews equipped with breathing apparatus and cutting equipment are being drafted into Britain's big cities to help the hard-pressed temporary fire-fighters.

After advice from the Chief Fire Officer at the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence decided yesterday to move the men from RAF ground training units and hospitals.

There will be 66 two-man teams, some with tenders carrying foam equipment, and half of them will be on duty at any one time. London will have 10 teams and Glasgow, Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester six each. Edinburgh, Cardiff, Newcastle upon Tyne, Middlesbrough, Leeds, Sheffield, Hull and Bristol will each have four teams. Senior officials of the union yesterday met the National Association of Fire Officers, which may consider at an executive meeting today calling a strike of its 4,000 members in support of the firemen.

The association's members, including senior officers, have been told not to cross fire station picket lines but have been providing most of the expert advice to military units.

Our Labour Reporter writes: Negotiations between firemen's

leaders and local authority employers will be resumed today, there are doubts whether they will bring an early end to the strike.

The chances of an early recall of the national conference of the Fire Brigades Union, necessary to call off the strike, appeared slim after the union's executive met in London yesterday.

Most of the 16 members of the executive are understood to have impressed on Mr Terence Pacey, the union's general secretary, that leading in their areas was heavily in favour of an improvement in the offer of an immediate 10 per cent increase in pay.

Mr Pacey said the present talks with the local authorities were on a pay formula for firemen and added: "We have never got into the field of saying that a future formula would be a basis for recommending anything."

Our Political Editor writes: The unstated political trick over the strike began to break up last night as Conservatives and, apparently, the Government sensed that the men were swinging public opinion in their favour.

The Prime Minister, acknow-

ledging in the Commons that the men's true "gross pay" had not been "got across" to the public, said he had his figures published.

There were private ministerial hints, as Labour left-wingers became more restive in their sympathies for the strikers, that the Government was looking at new possibilities.

One was to cut the working week now, rather than next year, and to give the men overtime for the difference.

However, Whitehall insisted that the Government's 10 per cent guideline would not be breached. Payment of overtime would seem to imply such a breach.

Last night, while avowing opposition to the strike, Mr Whitelaw, deputy Conservative leader, declared the firemen to be a special case.

He said in Bournemouth that the Government had driven the services, the police and the firemen, to an unprecedented pitch of discontent.

Mr Whitelaw said: "There is undoubtedly some truth in the claim that the firemen's claim that we are living off their consciences." He believed they had to look again at the pay of all who

risks their lives for the community.

The weekly gross figures show that a recruit aged 19 would get £52 a week in the provinces and £63 in London. A recruit of 22 would get £57.65 and £68.50 respectively and a fully qualified fireman £65.50 and £73. The sums would be increased by 10 per cent under the present pay offer.

Our Parliamentary Correspondent writes: The Prime Minister said in the Commons last night that if a settlement were near it would be unwise to endanger agreement by risking friction.

"If we were on the edge of a negotiated settlement, and rushing into fire stations and dragging out a lot of equipment, were to set back the settlement two or three weeks, it would simply not be worth it," he said.

Earlier Mr Rees, Home Secretary, made clear why it was impossible for the Government to budge from its 10 per cent guideline. He said: "I had a message last night from other unions which said bluntly, 'if you give to the Fire Brigades Union, you will give to us as well.'"

Strain telling, page 2
Parliamentary report, page 6

Whip on EEC Bill angers Labour MPs

Labour opponents of the EEC were furious last night to discover that a two-line whip is to be imposed on next week's debate on the Bill for direct elections to the European Assembly. In July government business managers allowed a free vote, and Mr Foot, leader of the House, was pressed for an explanation at a PLP meeting last night. He said: "The Government is entitled to demonstrate its own priorities in this matter."

EEC shelves plan for early monetary union

Hopes of early monetary union have been abandoned by the European Commission. Instead it is recommending a five-year preparatory period of gradual economic convergence. Even its watered-down proposals are radical enough to frighten off many member governments, including the British.

US officials in Somalia

Mr Melvin Price, chairman of the American House of Representatives' armed services committee, arrived in Mogadishu as the expelled Soviet military and civilian advisers started to leave Somalia. Accompanied by seven other congressmen and an eight-man military party, he called on President Siad Barre and other Somali officials.

Ombudsman reports

An increase in the number of justifiable complaints of maladministration is reported by Sir Idwal Pugh, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman), in his fifth report for the 1976-77 parliamentary session.

Richest now poorer

Britain's richest social groups have continued to see a relative decline in the proportion of the wealth they own according to a report from the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth.

Handicapped test case

The Department of Health and Social Security is to go ahead with an appeal which, if successful, will deprive a Worcester family of a mobility allowance for their severely handicapped son. It is a test case crucial to parents of severely handicapped children.

Barclaycard rate cut

Barclaycard has cut its monthly interest rate by 4 points to 14 per cent. The peak Christmas season is ahead. Access to credit is expected to bring its rate into line soon.

Scottish devolution: The Scottish National Party is to campaign vigorously for a "Yes" vote.

Pratfalls: Council inquest on Steve Biko says he is ready to call the South African police minister as a witness to prove a cover-up.

Focus on Oman: A 12-page Special Report on the changing face of this fast-growing Gulf state.

Leader page, 15
Letters: On the Freeman's son, from Mr Gordon Bradshaw, and others; on Le Monde, from M. Jean Favre; on mapping archaeology, from Mr J. D. Bates, and Professor R. J. C. Atkinson.
Leading articles: Devolution; Next year's price of oil; Case of the SS man; Features, pages 14 and 15.
Paul Routledge on the role of the "moderate" inside the extremists' movement; Sir Geoffrey Cox on the start of the Cold War.

Arts, page 12
Philip French on new films in London; Michael Ratcliffe on Chronicle (BBC 2); Ned Chaitlin on The Golden Country; on mapping archaeology, from Mr J. D. Bates, and Professor R. J. C. Atkinson.
Obituary, page 17
Mr Arthur Page, Dr P. M. Kaberry; Princess Charlotte of Monaco; Sport, pages 10 and 11.
Football: Norman Fox looks at Gresswood's position as England manager; Tennis: Rex Bellamy on old persons face to face; Wimbledon; Cricket: England's captain fears a drop in county standards.

Business News, pages 16-24
Stock markets: in a quiet session the FT index closed 3.3 down at 451.4. Money supply figures hit 11.1.

Financial Editor: Towards higher interest rates; Shall currency distortions; Becham on overseas; Redford Holdings.

Business features: Kenneth Owen on controlling television pictures by computer; Derek Harris on the threat posed by the British manufacturing plant of the Japanese television tube maker Hitachi.

Former SS man freed to meet press

By Stewart Tiedler

The Home Secretary yesterday failed to prevent a former officer in the Waffen-SS from giving a press conference in London to promote a history of the unit and improve its public image.

After the press conference Lieutenant-Colonel Meyer at the press conference.

Colonel Meyer, who was detained overnight by the police and then freed, obeyed an order signed by the Home Secretary to leave Britain. Colonel Richard Schulze-Kossens, who was Hitler's adjutant, also left. He had stayed undetected with Mr Jonathan Guinness, former chairman of the Monday Club.

The orders were signed because it was considered that the visits were "against public policy". Colonel Walter Harzer, another former officer, was prevented from entering Britain on Wednesday.

As Herr Meyer, once a member of Hitler's bodyguard and an SS divisional staff officer, arrived home in West Germany last night, the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police were privately disputing the blame for failing to stop him doing what Mr Rees had intended him to do.

He was detained at an hotel at Heathrow airport on Wednesday night, having been driven there by ITN to meet Herr Harzer. He stayed at the airport police station overnight, and at midday yesterday he was driven by the Daily Express to an hotel, where a press conference had been arranged.

Home Office sources agreed last night that things had gone wrong. There was no mention on the order relating to Herr Meyer that he should be detained and it was suggested that the police should not have held him. The Immigration Act, 1971, does not give powers of detention in such a case.

The order was issued on Wednesday but dated for yesterday, which gave Herr Meyer time to attend the press conference. It was pointed out that he could have claimed 14 days in which to appeal.

Police sources say they were told of orders relating to Herr Meyer and Herr Harzer. Herr Meyer was found and said he was going to leave at 8 am yesterday. It is admitted that there was no right to detain him but it was felt that he should be kept at the police station as much for his own safety as any other reason. When he changed his mind about leaving, senior police officers said he should be released.

Leading article, page 15

New air strike
Madrid, Nov 17.—Spain's 11,000 airport workers who paralysed the country's civilian air traffic for 72 hours by striking last weekend will start a new 24-hour strike tomorrow UPI.

Palestine secrets embargoed 75 years

By Peter Hennessey

More than two thirds of secret Colonial Office files on the last days of the British mandate in Palestine in 1947 will fail to appear at the Public Record Office when the 30-year rule expires on January 1. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office into which the Colonial Office was subsumed in the late 1960s, has prevented their release until 2022.

The papers represent the latest substantial batch of documents whose non-appearance has baffled historians. Inquiries by The Times have discovered the whereabouts of the files. The continued closure of part of the Foreign Office and Colonial Office archives arises from the Government's unwillingness to acknowledge its past role in the creation of the State of Israel. Any document containing material derived from secret sources, or even mentioning the existence of clandestine operations, automatically remains classified for at least 75 years. The sole exception to this rule is wartime, when parts of the secret archives are revealed in a carefully controlled fashion.

The secrecy of MIO and its sister counter-intelligence service, MIO, are never disclosed. But their activities also restrict publication of files from departments upon which covert operations may impinge.

Foreign Office reviewers, or "weavers", as they are called, have strict instructions from a Cabinet committee that set in the late 1960s on the handling of such material. Even the attachment of "Secret Intelligence Service" stamps to a document of a relatively innocuous document from a non-clandestine department is sufficient to incur a 75-year closure.

The operations of MIO and MIO, which at the time were responsible for the internal security of the empire in Palestine in 1947, have resulted in 48 "pieces" of Colonial Office documents being put under such a continuing embargo. Each "piece" consists of a file of paper up to two inches thick.

The Prime Minister and his colleagues he consults on intelligence and security matters are considering publication of a two-volume official history of secret intelligence during the Second World War. Mr Callaghan's agenda includes the implications of any possible publication for the continuing fiction that MIO ceases to exist officially the moment peace is declared.

A committee of permanent secretaries, chaired by Sir Douglas Allen, Head of the Home Civil Service, is also considering the matter and part of its general review of public record policy. Public acknowledgment of the postwar work of MIO is not a likely outcome. One possible remedy is the excision of all references to MIO and MIO from affected files, which could then be released in a declassified form.

The latest paper to be circulated among the members of Sir Douglas Allen's committee concerns the inadequacies of present-day "weeding" procedures. Drafted by Sir John Hunt, Secretary of the Cabinet, its forceful arguments have made an impact in Whitehall during the past week, as the permanent secretaries begin to make up their minds about future reform.

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HOME NEWS

Ministry to pursue appeal that may deprive handicapped boy of mobility allowance

By Craig Seton

The Department of Health and Social Security is to press ahead with an appeal that, if successful, will deprive a Worcester family of a mobility allowance for their severely handicapped son. It is a test case crucial to many other parents of children with similar disabilities and may eventually reach the High Court.

It centres on Robert Edmunds, aged 12, who has Down's Syndrome, a mental handicap with frequent physical implications. He is described as hyperactive, has a mental age of two and will walk only a few yards before sitting down.

Mr Peter Walker, Conservative MP for Worcester, has taken up the case and is particularly concerned that in their attempts to fight the department, Mr and Mrs Ernest Edmunds, the boy's parents, do not qualify for legal aid. Free legal advice has saved them from fees of more than £500.

Mr Walker described the case yesterday as appalling. On Tuesday he will ask Mr Morris, Minister for the Disabled, a Commons question on his policy towards providing mobility allowances for children with Down's Syndrome.

Mr Morris yesterday would only say that it was "both a very distressing and important test case."

The family's campaign started in September, 1976, when their first application for the £5 weekly mobility allowance was rejected. On appeal to a medical appeal tribunal in January it was granted, but in May the department applied for leave to appeal.

The medical appeal tribunal refused the application in July, saying it was entirely satisfied that the boy should have the allowance. Much to the surprise of Mr and Mrs Edmunds, the department applied to the National Insurance Commissioner for leave to appeal and that was granted in September.

Mrs Edmunds said yesterday that because of the department's persistence in fighting the case no mobility allowance had been paid. "I am like a pawn in a game and nobody has explained how I shall play the rules," she said.

Her son, she said, needed her constant attention. The



Mr and Mrs Edmunds try to interest their son, Robert, in a book.

family, which also includes a daughter, Lisa, aged 17, lived on a small income and had no financial means to fight a test case against the might of a large government department.

Only the free service of a solicitor and a barrister had enabled them to continue, and if necessary they would pursue it to the High Court.

The department is fighting the case on the ground that the criteria for mobility allowance awards clearly state that

the applicant should be unable or virtually unable to walk because of severe physical disability.

It is understood that in the boy's case it will be argued that, although he is able to walk, frequently he refuses to do so. Because of his low mental age, it is apparently accepted that such a refusal cannot be regarded as an act of conscious will, and that issue will be at the centre of the legal argument.

undertaken. Shortage of NHS funds, not the contract, would influence that.

Although general hospital work was being attacked and money diverted to other sectors, there must be a likelihood of expansion in the private sector.

It was for the Government to provide enough money for consultants to work in the NHS.

Full-time consultants in the NHS work 11 sessions of 3 1/2 hours each a week (although many work longer hours) and undertake not to practise privately.

Part-time consultants work nine sessions and lose two eleventh of their pay but have private patients.

The new contract will have to be put to the profession and is likely to lead to a long debate. A referendum on views is likely on whether to accept it. It will then have to be priced by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration.

Although the consultants' leaders avoid describing their

new contract as an industrial-type deal on the lines of the junior doctors', it is agreed that it is "more time-based" than the old contract.

It is understood that the new contract would allow for agreed additional sessions to be built in.

A clause is written in to safeguard existing contracts. It is felt that a full-time consultant would be able to review his work and, if necessary, be paid for two extra sessions and would therefore be paid for 12 NHS sessions.

There is also a banding system under which extra pay would be made for being on call at night and a "recall fee" if the consultant had to attend a hospital in an emergency.

The contract seeks better allowances for the use of cars and telephones. No agreement has been reached on distinction awards, under which groups of consultants qualify for extra payments.

week. Eight would be regular sessions, one for administrative duties and committee work and one for continuing responsibility for patients and departments. An option for agreed additional sessions would be built in.

It is considered vital that in pricing the contract, the review body must be aware of the constraints of policy, such as a tight 10 per cent limit. Negotiators say the review body must seek to correct anomalies between consultants and junior hospital doctors, other professionals, and the population as a whole.

It is hoped that agreement will be reached by consultants in time for the review of salaries next April, but it may not be priced until the following year.

Basically, the new contract provides for 10 national half days (NHDs) of 3 1/2 hours a

Equal rights woman to challenge dismissal

By Annabel Ferriman

The Equal Opportunities Commission, which has helped 40 women to take their employers before industrial tribunals, is itself to be taken before a tribunal by one of its former employees.

Dr Eileen Byrne, who was dismissed last week from her job as head of the commission's education section, which has 11 members, said yesterday that she would appeal.

She was dismissed after she had spoken to a reporter on *The Times Educational Supplement* about a confidential report not leaked by her, critical of the commission. She was quoted as criticising the report, produced by the Home Office and the Civil Service Department, for its recommendation that the education department's role should be widened.

Miss Betty Lockwood, chairman of the commission, wrote to the newspaper saying that the remarks attributed to Dr Byrne did not reflect the commission's views. Dr Byrne also wrote saying she had no recollection of making the remarks, but the newspaper is standing by its report.

The Civil Service and Home Office report is also understood to criticise some members of the commission staff for letting their commitment to the cause of women interfere with their work.

The commissioners are thought to be worried about the report.

The two-year term of office of the commissioners, extended to the new contract, expires next month. It is understood that 11 are willing to continue serving, but that Mr Alexander Nicol and Mrs Caroline Woodcock intend to leave.

Strain is telling on soldier-firemen

As the firemen's strike entered its fourth day yesterday the strain of tackling outbreaks with out-of-date and inadequate equipment was telling on the soldiers doing the men's jobs.

An officer said: "Our lads are getting very tired and we are worried that exhaustion will mean mistakes and some of our men, will get killed."

In the North-east soldiers fought two big fires yesterday. The first started at a supermarket at Bedlington, Northumberland, after a gas explosion. Flames spread to an ex-Service men's club next door.

About fifty troops with four appliances were helped by the police. The fire burnt out in three hours but both buildings were badly damaged.

A second big fire started at a farm at Hebron, Northumberland, after a haystack had caught alight.

As the strike continued more signs of bitterness emerged. Fire officers withdrew from the control centre of Derby fire headquarters and troops took their place.

Mr Michael Bull, county chairman of the National Association of Fire Officers, said: "The special dispensation given to officers to cross the picket lines at our headquarters to man the control room has been withdrawn."

By doing so we shall be more able to maintain a neutral stand. The 12 officers who man the control room are now available to give the troops advice.

Since the dispute began 12 officers have worked in three shifts for 24 hours.

Fifteen striking firemen from Huntingdon brigade headquarters have been banned from having their Christmas dinner at a country public house. They

had booked at the Bell Inn, Southsea. But the landlord, Brian Stephenson, said he was anti-trade union. Although he respected the work done by firemen he disagreed with their strike.

At Bexleyheath, south-east London, firemen left their picket line yesterday to free a critically injured man from his wrecked car after a crash outside the station.

They broke the front seat of the car with their hands to pull free Mr Robert Johnstone, of St Paul's Cray, Kent, free as smoke was pouring from the engine. He was critically ill in hospital last night.

Christopher Walker writes from Belfast: Seven incendiary devices placed at a large timber yard in Dungannon yesterday were defused by an army expert.

Later part-time firemen moved in to prevent a potentially serious fire from gaining hold at the Monsanto chemical complex, near Coleraine. Two 700-high tanks of polymer were destroyed, but plant officials believe that the damage might have been much worse.

There have been five fire deaths in Ulster since the strike began, but army and police sources say that none could have been prevented by the regular firemen. All the victims were children.

In the case of a girl killed on Tuesday night, the police believe a petrol bomb was involved.

The two children who died in their house in the Falls area of Belfast early yesterday were Robert Finnegan, aged two, and his sister, Lisa, aged 10 months. A few hours earlier two sisters, Grainne and Elizabeth Porter, aged 12 and 10, died after being trapped in the upstairs bedroom of a blazing house in Banbridge, co

Inventive pupils praised by minister

By Alan Hamilton

A schoolchild who can design a vandal-proof telephone kiosk, or a central heating system for bird cages, or a lighting system for discotheques is just as gifted and socially valuable as one who can pass examinations, Mr Oakes, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, believes.

Yesterday he presented prizes to winners of a schools design competition sponsored by the Design Council and the General Electric Company. Besides the kiosk and the heating and lighting systems, winning entries from pupils aged from 13 upwards included a safety system for playgrounds, and a pneumatic yacht sail.

Mr Oakes told winners, their parents and teachers that the basic skills needed to cope with both life and work were normally taken to be literacy and numeracy, but visual awareness and the ability to make things were of great importance in the national battle for reconstruction.

School curriculum preoccupied with a notion of scholarship meant that drawing and making were subtly devalued by being relegated to the state of pastimes.

Society's infatuation with prestige, white collars and clean hands had resulted in a widespread belief that a good education meant a wholly scholastic one. At the same time some teachers believed that informal, almost anti-academic, methods were best.

"It is high time we got rid of the outdated rubbish that relates social prestige to employment in a way that is strongly reminiscent of the cases against anyone who uses his hands to earn a living is quite definitely among the pariahs."

"That is the breathtaking cheek of it all: those who actually produce the wealth that pays the piper are not even allowed to listen to the tune," Mr Oakes said.

A person's merit did not depend on his academic attainments. There was no eternal league table of the worthiness of various jobs.

As long as such ideas persist, we shall never have a society that is as good as it is. Continuous downgrading of the creative and the practical will mean that we shall never have a society that is as good as it is. Continuous downgrading of the creative and the practical will mean that we shall never have a society that is as good as it is.

Results: Group one: children over 15 and under 16. Group two: children aged 12 and under 12. Group three: children aged 10 and under 10. Group four: children aged 8 and under 8. Group five: children aged 6 and under 6. Group six: children aged 4 and under 4. Group seven: children aged 2 and under 2. Group eight: children aged 1 and under 1. Group nine: children aged 0 and under 0.

Ministers are 'consistent' on invalid tricycles

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Several ministers have been cleared of the accusation that they misled the public over the real reasons for phasing out the invalid tricycle. But Sir Iddow Pugh, Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman), in his findings accepts that many tricycle drivers are concerned when "official statements appear to give conflicting accounts and thus cause uncertainty and confusion."

He says that the departments are following a consistent line. He has confirmed the Secretary of State's undertaking to phase out the provision of a special "time" "an aim to ensure that no beneficiary of the present scheme is made

immobile by phasing out the tricycle."

The issue was raised by Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour MP for Birmingham, Perry Bar, who believed that various statements made by Mr Easile, Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Morris, Under-Secretary of State for the Disabled, and Mr Horam, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, were contradictory. He described the Ombudsman's findings yesterday as "very disappointing in some ways."

Mr Rooker was chiefly concerned that the Government was relying on the inability of the tricycle to meet European safety regulations when his own research disclosed that they did not apply to three-wheel vehicles and were not mandatory on member states.

Consultants' contract 'would encourage NHS work'

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

The present division between full-time and part-time consultants working in the National Health Service will be dropped from their new contract, final discussions on which should be completed with government officials by the end of this month.

After working a set number of sessions for the NHS, a consultant would be free to do further sessions for additional payment, make private practice, or give his time to anything else.

Mr Anthony Grahame, chairman of the Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services, which represents the 13,000 consultants, said yesterday that the contract would encourage doctors to do more NHS work.

At the same time it did not discourage private practice. He thought the contract would make little difference to the amount of private practice

undertaken. Shortage of NHS funds, not the contract, would influence that.

Although general hospital work was being attacked and money diverted to other sectors, there must be a likelihood of expansion in the private sector.

It was for the Government to provide enough money for consultants to work in the NHS.

Full-time consultants in the NHS work 11 sessions of 3 1/2 hours each a week (although many work longer hours) and undertake not to practise privately.

Part-time consultants work nine sessions and lose two eleventh of their pay but have private patients.

The new contract will have to be put to the profession and is likely to lead to a long debate. A referendum on views is likely on whether to accept it. It will then have to be priced by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration.

Although the consultants' leaders avoid describing their

new contract as an industrial-type deal on the lines of the junior doctors', it is agreed that it is "more time-based" than the old contract.

It is understood that the new contract would allow for agreed additional sessions to be built in.

A clause is written in to safeguard existing contracts. It is felt that a full-time consultant would be able to review his work and, if necessary, be paid for two extra sessions and would therefore be paid for 12 NHS sessions.

There is also a banding system under which extra pay would be made for being on call at night and a "recall fee" if the consultant had to attend a hospital in an emergency.

The contract seeks better allowances for the use of cars and telephones. No agreement has been reached on distinction awards, under which groups of consultants qualify for extra payments.

week. Eight would be regular sessions, one for administrative duties and committee work and one for continuing responsibility for patients and departments. An option for agreed additional sessions would be built in.

It is considered vital that in pricing the contract, the review body must be aware of the constraints of policy, such as a tight 10 per cent limit. Negotiators say the review body must seek to correct anomalies between consultants and junior hospital doctors, other professionals, and the population as a whole.

It is hoped that agreement will be reached by consultants in time for the review of salaries next April, but it may not be priced until the following year.

Basically, the new contract provides for 10 national half days (NHDs) of 3 1/2 hours a

Incendiary attack on university proctor's office

From Our Correspondent

Colchester

A small incendiary attack was made on Wednesday night on the office of Dr John Oliver, proctor of Essex University, Colchester. Police confirmed last night that papers were destroyed, and there was smoke damage.

Dr Oliver, who is responsible for university discipline, has been a target for student demonstrations since the imposition of penalties on students who occupied the administration block earlier this year.

The students' union dissociated itself last night from Wednesday's attack which it said was completely irresponsible.

The incendiary attack, a small petrol bomb and a piece of burning wood, was thrown through the window of the office in a computer centre by someone on a ladder.

Dead family named

The people killed in a collision between a car and a lorry on the A1 near Ayton, Borders, on Wednesday were Mr Robert Hurton, aged 40; his wife, Ruth, aged 40; and Mrs Hilma Spence, aged 70, her mother, all of George Street, Bowburn, co Durham.

The collision occurred on Wednesday night at about 11.30 pm. The car, a Ford Fiesta, was driven by Mr Hurton. The lorry, a Humber, was driven by Mr Hurton. The car was struck by the lorry. The car was crushed. The lorry was damaged. The car was towed away. The lorry was left on the road. The car was found with the bodies of Mr Hurton, Mrs Hurton, and Mrs Spence. The lorry was found with the bodies of Mr Hurton, Mrs Hurton, and Mrs Spence. The car was found with the bodies of Mr Hurton, Mrs Hurton, and Mrs Spence. The lorry was found with the bodies of Mr Hurton, Mrs Hurton, and Mrs Spence.

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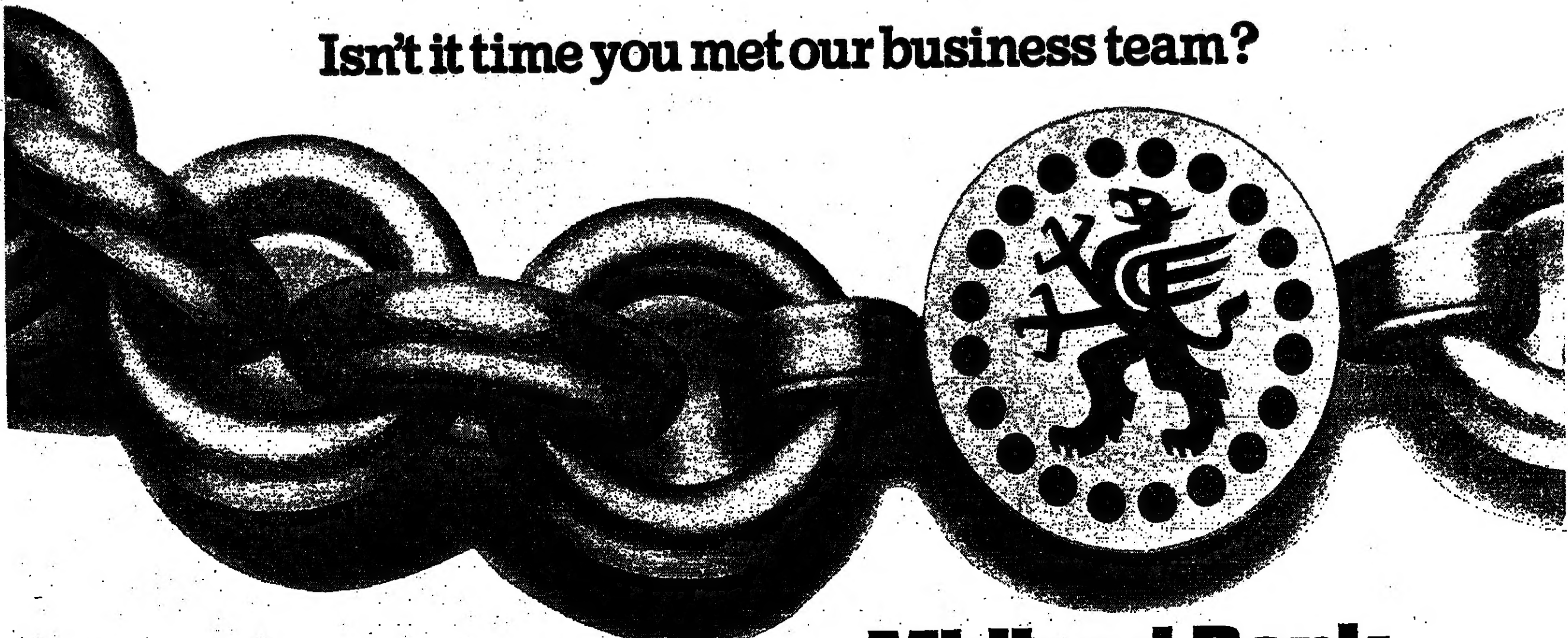
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HOME NEWS

Architect with an eye for landscapes is honoured as planner

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Sir Frederick Gibberd, one of the most inventive and versatile of twentieth-century British architects, has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Town Planning Institute. It was announced yesterday.

Sir Frederick, who will be 70 next January, is only the ninth recipient of the award since it was instituted in 1953. His predecessors include Sir Patrick Abercrombie, Mr. Leslie Martin, Lord Holford, Sir Frederick Gibberd and Sir Colin Buchanan.

Among Sir Frederick's best known buildings are the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Liverpool, the Central London Mosque in Regent's Park, and the International Hotel at Hyde Park.

He also undertook the difficult and long delayed reconstruction of Courts Bank, in the Strand, behind the original Nash facade.

More controversially, he was responsible for the as yet uncompleted Kielder dam in Northumberland and for the terminal buildings at Heathrow. He says that, in the airport's early days, he voiced doubts about restricting expansion by placing the terminals within the intersections of the main runways, but was told that as the architect his job was to concentrate on the buildings.

It must have been a difficult pill to swallow, for Sir Frederick has always emphasised that architecture and planning are, or should be, inseparable. He became involved in town planning, he says, because of his convictions about the importance of the effect of buildings on their environment and vice versa.

It is as a planner that he is being honoured by the Institute, and it is as a planner that he may well be longest remembered. His most outstanding achievement is probably Harlow



Sir Frederick Gibberd. Planned Harlow New Town

New Town, for which he prepared the master plan 30 years ago. He still lives in Harlow, opened the first office in the town centre and is closely involved in its continuing development.

His feeling for landscape as well as architecture helped to create a physical layout that is widely regarded as the most striking of all the new towns. He was also one of the pioneers of conservation and an outstanding advocate of the need for sensitive redevelopment in historic town centres; his achievements in places as diverse as Doncaster and Stratford on Avon, Banbury and Leamington, though not without their critics, have been widely commended.

With his luxuriant moustache and tweed suits, he conveys something of the character of a latter-day Edwardian country gentleman in the Elgar tradition. He finds his recreation in gardening, to which might be added collecting English watercolours and, apparently, enjoying life.

Concern at effect of job scheme on grants

By Diana Geddes

Mr Norman St John-Stevas, MP, opposition spokesman on education, and the National Union of Students have independently decided to call on the Government to set up a working party on discretionary awards for students.

Both are concerned about the effect that the proposed allowance of £18 a week for young people on the youth opportunities programme courses will have on other students in further education who are not eligible for mandatory grants.

The National Union of Students, which lobbied MPs at Westminster yesterday, says that 300,000 students, or 90 per cent of full-time further education students on non-advanced courses, receive no grant at all. The other 10 per cent get a grant averaging £22.2 a week.

The union wants a government working party to lay down a framework for further education students to win parity with those receiving £18 a week under the youth opportunities programme. It also wants the Secretary of State for Education to propose legislation giving her enabling powers to designate more courses that would carry an entitlement to a mandatory student grant.

Mandatory grants are given for full-time or sandwich first-degree courses or for any course that has been officially designated as comparable to a first-degree course; for full or part-time initial teacher training courses; and for courses leading to higher national diplomas.

With his luxuriant moustache and tweed suits, he conveys something of the character of a latter-day Edwardian country gentleman in the Elgar tradition. He finds his recreation in gardening, to which might be added collecting English watercolours and, apparently, enjoying life.

Disabled soldier's benefit suspension 'wrong, abrupt and arbitrary'

Ombudsman finds more complaints justified

By David Nicholson-Lord

Nearly half the complaints investigated by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman) from May to July have been upheld by him, a steady increase on the previous quarter and running well above the levels of last year.

Of the 64 complaints of maladministration investigated by the Ombudsman, Sir Idwal Fugh, 51, were upheld. That compares with 23 out of 77 in the quarter from February to April and an overall level of 43 per cent in 1976, itself a 6 per cent increase on the previous year.

Cases of maladministration brought to light in Sir Idwal's fifth report, for the 1976-77 parliamentary session, published yesterday, include that of a former soldier who suffered psychoneurosis after witnessing

the death of a young girl caught in a crossfire between his unit and a group of terrorists, and left the Army as a result.

The incident took place in 1966, since when the report says, the individual's disability has meant that he has worked for a total of only three years. In October, 1976, his invalidity benefit was suspended without notice by the Department of Health and Social Security, leaving his wife without money to buy food for their three children.

Sir Idwal describes the decision by a local office as wrong, abrupt and arbitrary and adds that he fully sympathizes with the distress it caused. The department had since apologized and issued an invalidity order book.

As in previous reports, a high proportion of the complaints involve the DHSS and the Inland

Revenue. Twelve of the 21 claims against the Inland Revenue and nine of the 17 against the DHSS were wholly or partly upheld.

They include a pensioner suddenly faced with a bill for £167 underpayment of tax, accumulated solely because of Inland Revenue mishandling, and a former journalist, now in his seventies, who was presented with a bill for £896 because of the Inland Revenue's "consistent mishandling" of his affairs.

In a case involving the DHSS, a man suffered a stroke, which left him partially paralysed, and his doctor submitted an application for a special wheelchair.

Six months later he died. Two months after his death, however, his widow was sent two standard, identical letters from an artificial limb and appliance centre inquiring whether her husband was get

ting full benefit from a wheelchair lent for temporary use. The report describes the inquiries as inexcusable, although it adds that the department has now revised its procedures.

Two further cases, referred to the Department of Transport's refusal to pay an "unqualified" objector at a road inquiry adequate expenses to cover his attendance, and a trained teacher who said he had been encouraged by Department of Education publicity to leave a job he had been in for 29 years to go to college, but was then unable to find employment in teaching.

In both instances, Sir Idwal expressed sympathy but came down in favour of the government departments.

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, Fifth Report for Session 1976-77 (Stationery Office, £2.60).

In brief

'Poor service' in supermarkets

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, opposition spokesman on prices and consumer protection, said yesterday that it was time to protest against poor service in supermarkets.

"Standards in this country are nowhere near United States levels", she said at the annual luncheon of the British Frozen Food Federation in London. "All too often over here one has to trail from one shop to another to find the most ordinary item in the make, size and variety that one wants."

Vets attack park ban on dogs

Plans by local authorities to ban dogs from parks and other public places, because of the threat of *Toxocara canis*, a worm found in puppies that can infect people, were attacked by the British Veterinary Association yesterday.

It described the ban, which has been enforced at Burnley, Lancashire, as an overreaction.

Stop pampering, police chief says

Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, said yesterday that society must stop pampering those who bite the hands that feed them. He was giving a lecture at Preston Polytechnic.

"It is time we put people before political machinations, dubious principles and the new god of bureaucracy", he said.

£18,000 promise to Wordsworth appeal

From Our Correspondent

Grasmere. The trustees of Dove Cottage, Grasmere, where the main Wordsworth museum and library are housed, have been promised £18,000 by the Victoria and Albert Museum towards the money they are seeking to buy the recently discovered Wordsworth and Coleridge manuscripts for the nation.

In July, Cornell University bought the hitherto unknown manuscripts, which include love letters between Wordsworth and his wife, at a Sotheby's auction for £38,500. Last week the Reviewing Com-

mittee on the Export of Works of Art, suspended the issue of an export licence for four months to enable a British institution to match the purchase price.

The Dove Cottage trustees launched a public appeal, with the help of a letter in *The Times* on November 12, to enable them to buy the manuscripts from Cornell before the extra time is up, on February 5.

Mr Jonathan Wordsworth, their chairman, said: "The Victoria and Albert has responded to our appeal by promising us £18,000 from one of the grant funds it administers. We are delighted of

course, and we feel sure that somehow now we shall be able to find the amount needed."

Cornell was open to an offer from Dove Cottage, but was not obliged to accept it. "They could keep the manuscripts in England", he said, "but we are hopeful that they will accept."

The trustees have already raised £85,000 this year towards repairs to Dove Cottage and construction of a new library, and have decided to broaden their base by including the manuscripts appeal under one big Wordsworth Heritage Appeal. For all three they will need about £200,000.

Heritage award gold medal for National Trust

The achievements of the National Trust have been recognized internationally with the award of the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe Gold Medal, which will be presented at a reception in London today (our Planning Reporter writes).

The FVS Foundation, of Hamburg, which has made the award, commends the trust for "the splendid example it has set for the whole of Europe in the conservation of the architectural heritage and landscape of the British Isles".

Most governments 'want air fares regulated'

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Cooperation rather than confrontation with the scheduled airlines was desirable in developing an acceptable structure of European fares, the Civil Aviation Authority has concluded after submissions to it over three days by airlines and other interested parties.

The hearings took place in London in January, and in a discussion document based on them published yesterday, the authority said that, although it might be argued that airlines should be allowed the same freedom of pricing as any other commercial enterprise, most governments had decided that air fares on scheduled services should be regulated.

"It is not possible for a major aviation country like the United Kingdom to stand aside, alone, from such a regulated environment," the authority said. It intended to give further consideration to a practical solution to the problem, "including possible changes to the first-class product."

Among the scheduled airlines in Europe the regulatory system restricted entry, and there was no effective price competition for normal scheduled fares. The user of normal, rather than charter, fares was therefore denied effective choice and was at risk of being charged more than the cost of the service he used.

The regulatory authority, which has power to restrict competition in this way, must therefore ensure that this does not occur.

European Air Fares: a discussion document (Civil Aviation Authority, PO Box 41, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, £4.75).

Appeal for more arts broadcasts

Sir Claus Moser, chairman of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, appealed yesterday for urgent Arts Council action to ensure widespread broadcasting of the performing arts on television and radio (our Music Reporter writes).

"It is the whole question of arts for the people. We want to perform to millions", he said.

Annual report, page 12

Analysis of shop stewards

The department of adult Education at Hull University is examining the motivation, characteristics and experience of shop stewards in British industry.

Six companies and the Transport and General Workers' Union have agreed to cooperate in the three-year project.

Raymond Aron

David Walker talks to Raymond Aron. Judith Judd interviews Asa Briggs, and Laurie Taylor plays the Marxist, in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today.

Corrections

Mr R. M. Lewis, who was described as Chief Probation Officer for Kent in an article on Marxists in higher education on Tuesday, is senior probation officer.

The Morning Star is not £187,000 in debt as stated on Monday, but has a projected deficit of that amount for next year. A proposed price increase from January 3, 1978, is expected to yield £154,000 extra income.

Sentences on youths who attacked soldiers

Fourteen young men and youths who sought out soldiers in order to attack them were sentenced at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday. They pleaded guilty to various charges of unlawful assembly, assault and robbery.

Judge Argyle, QC, said: "This case arises out of a series of incidents of violence that took place in Surrey."

"They involved organized gangs of young men in motor cars going around seeking out persons they thought or believed to be soldiers and attacking them, beating them up and in some cases robbing them."

Mr Christopher Purchas, for the prosecution, said that the group looked for men with short hair, but twice their victims were students. Three other victims were Territorial Army soldiers. All were knocked to the ground, kicked and punched while they lay helpless.

Stephen Clark, aged 23, of Tongham, Surrey, was jailed for two years. Keith White, aged 20, and David Brewer, aged 18, were jailed for six months.

Gordon Powell, aged 20, Brian Cole, aged 19, and Alan Williams, aged 19, were sent to borstal.

Mark Atkins, Stephen White, and David Boniface, all aged 18, were sent to a detention centre for six months. A boy aged 16 was sent to a detention centre for six months and another for three months. A boy aged 17 was put on probation for two years and two aged 15 received two-year supervision orders.

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WEST EUROPE

Commission abandons hopes for move to early monetary union

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Nov 17
Hopes of winning the support of the Nine for a rapid move towards a single currency, the pooling of national reserves and the setting-up of a central monetary authority have been abandoned by the European Commission.

Instead, in a document to be discussed next week by finance ministers and by heads of government at next month's summit meeting, the Commission recommends a five-year preparatory period of gradual economic convergence and a tightening of existing monetary disciplines.

At the end of five years we may be in a position to launch a more ambitious plan, says the Commission's chief spokesman, said here today. In the meantime the Commission wants heads of government to review annually the progress made in implementing the five-year preparatory programme.

The new proposals represent a defeat for those within the Commission, among them at one time Mr Roy Jenkins, its president, who had argued that a bold move towards monetary union could provide the answer to high inflation and chronic unemployment within the EEC.

An attempt to reconcile this view with the gradualism favoured by M. François-Xavier Ortoli, the Commissioner in charge of Economic Affairs, was already evident in Mr Jenkins's speech last month to the European University Institute in Florence. The Ortoli approach prevails in the document that has finally emerged.

Even in this watered-down form, however, the Commission's proposals are radical enough to frighten off many governments, including the British. The Exchequer, the chief of the Exchequer, was most conspicuous last month.

British suspected of fishing for Russians

From David Wood

Strasbourg, Nov 17
The EEC Commission suspects that British trawlers are supplying mother ships of the Soviet trawler fleet with fish and thereby outflanking the new fishing controls in the North Sea.

Mr Gundelach, Commissioner for Agriculture and Fisheries, said in the European Parliament today that the Russians had accepted EEC rules as the EEC had been obliged to accept theirs.

The fact remained that Russian mother ships were still in EEC waters off the British coast and "it is a matter of concern to the Commission how they are being provided with raw material."

He posed the question whether they were being supplied by trawlers sailing in Community waters under the British flag. He raised the possibility that the Soviet EEC agreement to achieve a genuine balance of fishing interests might be undermined by trawling activities breaching EEC policy.

Hugh Clayton writes: The British Fishing Federation said: "There is no secret about this. It is a perfectly straightforward commercial arrangement. If Mr Gundelach is trying to read something sinister into this it is ridiculous."

Pelagic fish, that is species that swim near the surface such as herring and mackerel, have been sold by British vessels to processing vessels from Russia, East Germany and Poland. The dealings do not concern the more expensive and politically sensitive varieties of white fish such as cod.

Torshavn, Faroe Islands: The home rule government of the Faroe Islands has introduced new restrictions on British trawlers operating off its coast in response to Britain's total ban on herring fishing in July.

An area where British vessels have been forbidden to fish has been extended by four miles. Parliamentary report, page 6

In dismissing any chances of significant progress towards economic and monetary union.

The Commission's five-year "action programme" aims in part at greater coordination of the short-term management of national economies, a "return to greater cohesion in European currencies" and the creation of new loan facilities to finance common regional, industrial and energy policies.

The Commission wants to see much faster progress towards a unified market with the emphasis on fiscal harmonization, especially of indirect taxes, the free circulation of goods and services, and the removal of controls on the movement of capital within the EEC.

Under the Treaty of Accession Britain has an obligation to permit freedom of capital movement from the beginning of next year. Treasury officials are, however, seeking an extension of Britain's exemption from this requirement, particularly as it affects direct investment abroad and personal capital transfers.

Mr Jenkins and his fellow commissioners also want a vigorous renewed attack on structural and social problems. This would combine rationalization of declining sectors hit by recession, such as textiles, steel and shipbuilding, with the promotion of growth areas, such as energy, telecommunications, computers, electronics and aeronautics.

For the rest, the Commission's document rehearses many of the economic arguments for monetary union, advanced by Mr Jenkins in Florence. These include the boost to business confidence that might come from freeing intra-EEC trade from exchange rate risks and the rationalization of a single European currency.

European currency would have international value.



Surprised by early snow in Germany, Swabian shepherds drive their flock into winter stables.

Croissant handover denied defence time to act

Continued from page 1

oil to decide on a stay of execution. But until this was agreed, the Government had every right to proceed with the extradition and that is what happened.

At 8.45 pm a closely-guarded line of cars left La Santé prison, passing a group of left-wing lawyers protesting in favour of Herr Croissant. The convoy sped down the Avenue de l'Europe towards Strasbourg.

Possibly as a diversion a light aircraft was kept warming up at a rarely used airstrip just outside Paris at Coulommiers. The car sped on to Strasbourg where Euxheim civil airport was sealed off by the police and its buildings plunged into darkness.

On the bridge over the Rhine at Kehl four buses of riot police were drawn up leading to the belief that Herr Croissant was to be taken into west Germany by road—a further diversion.

Instead, a Puma helicopter of the Bundeswehr, which had been practising landing and take off in a corner of the airfield was used. It took off with Herr Croissant on board at 1.15 this morning.

Fifteen minutes later, the Ministry of Justice stated briefly that Herr Croissant had been handed over to the German authorities, conforming to a decree of extradition drawn up by the French Government.

The decree had limited its scope to the judgment of the Court of Appeal, which found Herr Croissant should be tried only on the offence of setting up a communications network among prisoners—an offence which carries a maximum five-year sentence in West Germany.

The necessary legal formalities were signed and sealed at the airport and Herr Croissant was handed over before his defence could do anything to bring about a stay of execution.

Fifteen legal and political groups sent spokesmen along this morning to a press conference protesting at the extradition which was variously described as "a scandal" and a "violation of the rights of man". The independence of the judiciary was held to have been smashed to smithereens.

Two of the defence lawyers pointed out that the appeal had been lodged with the Conseil d'Etat while Herr Croissant was still in France and they denounced the Government's "scandalous haste" in putting the extradition decree into effect.

One of them, Maître Marie-France Schmidlin, was at pains to point out that she was not to be associated with the left. To the German press I want to say that Claus Croissant had a Gaulish lawyer and that lawyer today is ashamed of her.

A protest demonstration has been called for tomorrow evening by a whole range of personalities of the left in the Place de la République. About 50 lawyers have agreed to help Herr Croissant's defence and in what is seen as an attempt to ensure his safety in prison, Maître Schmidlin has issued the text of a letter she received from her client after the Court of Appeal decision.

This said that despite "the special regime reserved for political prisoners aimed at destroying their physical integrity in West German prisons" he would never end his life by suicide. "If you learn of my death in a German prison, that will never be a suicide. Do not believe the lies of assassins."

Gretel Spitzer writes from Berlin: One of Herr Croissant's lawyers, Herr Stefan Baier, saw him during the day in Stammheim prison. The trial is expected in about three to four months' time.

Healey visit cancelled
Berlin, Nov 17.—Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has cancelled a two-day visit to West Berlin and Bonn due to start on November 28 because of urgent other business.—UPI.Rabies found in Swiss deer park
From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Nov 17
More than 1,000 people, mostly children, have been given anti-rabies vaccinations in Lausanne after two antelopes and a goat at a local deer park were found to have rabies. Mass vaccination was ordered for all school classes which visited the park recently.

Switzerland's third rabies death this year occurred last weekend. The victim was a 33-year-old trainer of huskies who had been preparing for an Arctic expedition.

He lived near Lausanne and had been bitten two months ago by one of the dogs which subsequently died. He did not report the bite until he became ill.

because it has suffered worse than any other from the consequences of a huge immigration from the surrounding countryside and from the south. Its normal municipal services are strained beyond the limit.

Turin is due to stage the trial of Signor Renato Curcio, leader of Red Brigades terrorist organisation. As a result, the chairman of the Turin lawyers' association has been murdered.

The Ministry of the Interior has decided to reinforce the police in the city but it is difficult to see what this will achieve unless the new men are highly trained in the fields of political terrorism and of violent crime.

The city is also vulnerable

cratic system, he was frank about its shortcomings but believed that with an effort democracy could be made to work. Presumably this was one of the reasons why he was attacked.

It is difficult not to feel that he suffered because he worked in Turin, the city which more than any other sums up the country's problems. With the Fiat works as its dominating economic interest, it represents the one real height of private capitalism in Italy.

It is no coincidence that Signor Casalegno's neighbour, in hospital is the latest Fiat executive to have been wounded by terrorists.

The city is also vulnerable

Swiss author accuses materialist society

From Patricia Clough

Hamburg, Nov 17
A challenge to Europe's materialist society was made today by Mr Max Frisch, the Swiss writer. He asked the West German Social Democratic Party congress in Hamburg whether that society should not blame itself for terrorism, extremism, drug addiction and resignation among its youth.

"What does this society have to offer its young, except care-free consumption of goods necessary for economic growth, what goals does it offer beyond themselves, what meaning for existence?"

Herr Frisch is one of many progressive intellectuals whose sometimes uncomfortable opinions and collaboration are encouraged by the Social Democrats. His much applauded speech struck closer than those of professional politicians to the core of what is a central problem in West Germany today.

"How innocent are we of the return of terrorism, or rather how guilty? How much scope is given to this generation to shape its own epoch together with its fathers? Hippies, dropouts, drug addiction, self-destruction and the theoretical

extremism of some university students were signs of a longing to give a new meaning to life.

"They are expected to submit. What remains is, in extreme cases, a resignation bound up with their careers which loss of faith and the consequent loss of themselves cannot remove... and the paranoia of the terrorist."

What was needed, Herr Frisch said, was greater democracy and a political life that would help people to be more human and create better values in life than the "battle for profit."

Nuclear debate: Leaders of the Social Democrats today pleaded with party delegates not to block the expansion of nuclear energy in West Germany.

Replying to demands from anti-nuclear delegates for a total halt to the construction of new nuclear plants, Dr Hans Apel, the Minister of Finance, told the congress: "Economic growth will need more energy."

A delegate from the industrial Ruhr said that only nuclear plants could produce the large amounts of energy West Germany needed to retain its international position as a steel producer.—Reuter.

German editor says terrorist threat enhanced unity
By Roger Berthoud
Recent events in West Germany had produced a new feeling of national togetherness, Dr Theo Sommer, the editor-in-chief of the liberal weekly newspaper Die Zeit, of Hamburg, said in London yesterday.

There had been an overdue indemnification with the Federal Republic which amounted to an act of recognition of the realities, he said, and the Government coalition had been welded together.

Dr Sommer was very optimistic about West Germany's basic stability. He felt the terrorists were a "bloody nuisance" rather than a threat to the country's structure. There were only about 100 of them, and half of them had been apprehended.

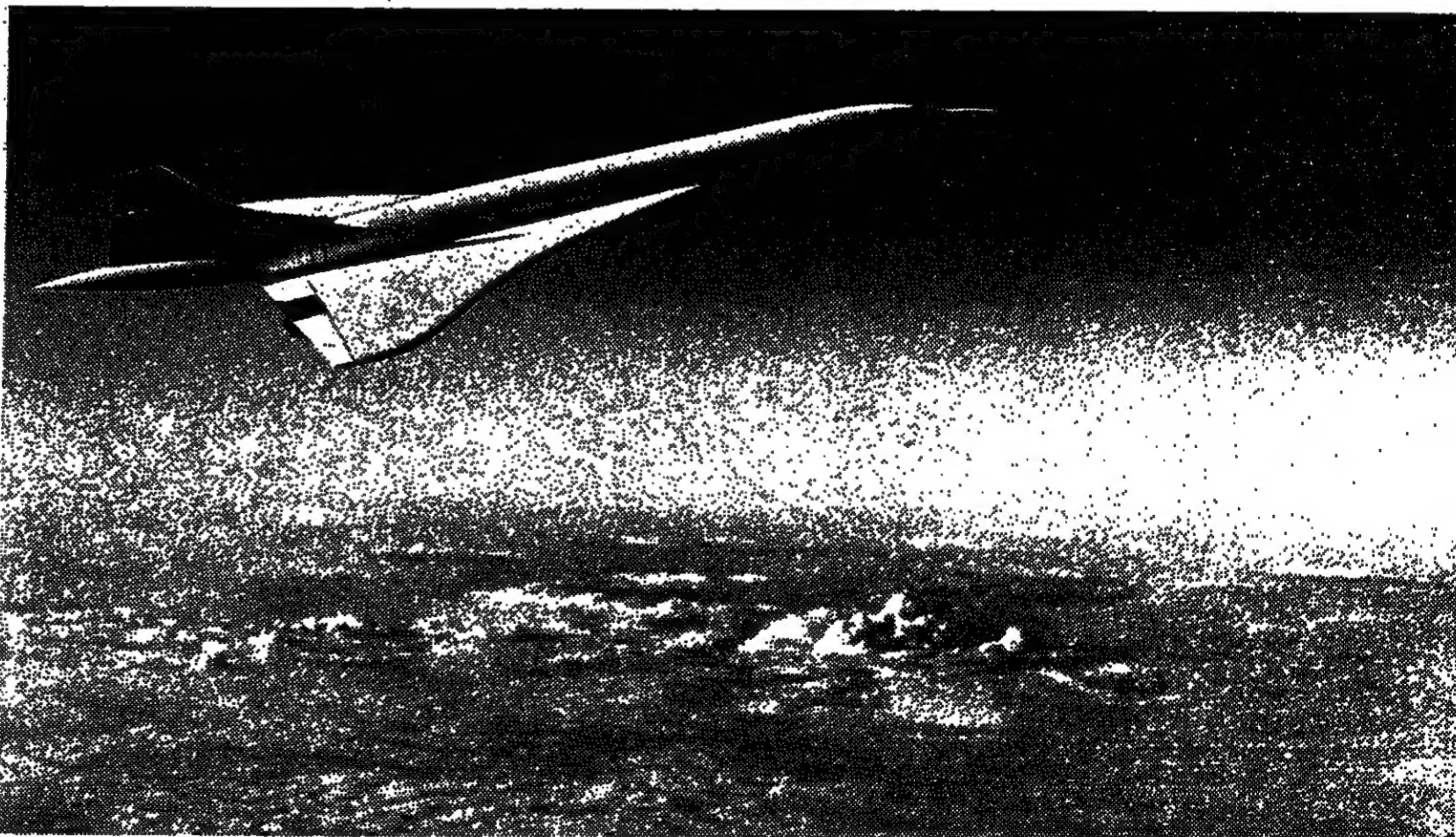
As for the future stability of Herr Schmidt's Government, he saw a possible threat only from the four land elections, next year, in Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Hesse and Bavaria.

If the Christian Democrats won Lower Saxony and Hesse, they could block any government legislation in the Bundestag, the Upper House. This could force the Free Democrats, at present in Government with the Social Democrats, in turn to the Opposition.

Christian Democrats in order to break the log jam.

But the odds against that were long, he thought. Even if it happened, it would be—if anything—a sign that the Federal Republic had the maturity to accommodate change without disruption.

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Editor victim of vulnerable city

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Nov 17
The condition of Signor Carlo Casalegno, deputy editor of the Turin newspaper La Stampa, who was shot yesterday by terrorists, was thought said to be slightly better.

Journalists throughout the country staged a two-hour strike in protest at the attack and factory, shop and office staff in Turin stopped work for an hour.

Six journalists have so far been wounded by terrorists but the attack on Signor Casalegno was the first quite clearly intended to kill the victim. A constructive critic of the democ-

cratic system, he was frank about its shortcomings but believed that with an effort democracy could be made to work. Presumably this was one of the reasons why he was attacked.

It is difficult not to feel that he suffered because he worked in Turin, the city which more than any other sums up the country's problems. With the Fiat works as its dominating economic interest, it represents the one real height of private capitalism in Italy.

It is no coincidence that Signor Casalegno's neighbour, in hospital is the latest Fiat executive to have been wounded by terrorists.

The city is also vulnerable

French put up television licence to £20

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Nov 17
The National Assembly has approved an increase in the television licence from 160 francs to 178 francs (just over £20) for black and white and 243 francs to 257 francs for colour.

This is to cover the cost of the abolition of the radio licence and the cost of regressive and protection of television transmitters in Corsica and Brittany destroyed earlier this year by autonomists. The damage was estimated at 45m francs.

The Assembly welcomed the suggestion by a backbencher of a day a week free of politics on television.

Pressure for Spínola reinstatement

From Our Correspondent

Lisbon, Nov 17
A national committee has been formed in Portugal to press for the reinstatement of General Spínola, who led the 1974 overthrow of the Caetano regime by the armed forces.

He was first President of the new Republic from April until September of 1974, when he was ousted by left-wing officers for alleged involvement in a right-wing coup attempt. In March, 1975, he went into exile and was stripped of his rank, dismissed the service and deprived of all military honours.

France tightens measures against drunk drivers

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Nov 17
Road deaths in France have decreased by 20 per cent in the past five years, despite a 30 per cent increase in traffic. The drop is attributed to lower speed limits and the compulsory use of seat belts.

M. Christian Bonnier, the Minister of the Interior, told the Cabinet yesterday that in the past 12 months 13,000 people were killed on the roads compared with 17,000 in 1972.

"In view of the increase in traffic the risk of a fatal accident has dropped by 40 per cent," he said.

The Cabinet approved a Bill increasing penalties for drunken driving and fixing a

legal limit on the amount of alcohol permissible in a driver's blood, even when not guilty of a traffic offence or involved in an accident.

The Minister of Justice produced evidence to show that 4 per cent of all drivers were drunk at the wheel and that 40 per cent of all fatal accidents in France were caused by alcohol.

President Giscard d'Estaing said that the first duty of a modern state was to protect the lives of its citizens and ensure their security. "All Frenchmen also have a duty to demonstrate, by their behaviour on the roads, their sense of responsibility and fellow feeling for others," he said.

The new committee has distributed nationally a pamphlet blaming the "ill will of certain members of the Council of the Revolution" for the delay in Spínola's reinstatement.

creation of a Portuguese-speaking community, on Commonwealth lines, with the colonies gaining autonomy progressively before independence.

Spínola had been governor and commander-in-chief in the colony of Guinea, and spoke from experience. However, after the book was published in February, 1974, he was dismissed and younger officers decided to overthrow Dr. Caetano.

The new committee has distributed nationally a pamphlet blaming the "ill will of certain members of the Council of the Revolution" for the delay in Spínola's reinstatement.

OVERSEAS

Counsel at Biko inquest ready to call minister as witness to prove a cover-up by police

From Nicholas Ashford
Pretoria, Nov 17

The inquest into the death of Steve Biko, the South African black consciousness leader, took a dramatic turn this afternoon when counsel for the Biko family, Mr Sydney Kentridge, said he was prepared to call Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Police, if necessary to show there had been a "cover-up" by the security police about how Mr Biko died.

Mr Kentridge said that "factually incorrect statements" made by Mr Kruger after Mr Biko's death could only have been based on information supplied by Colonel Piet Goosen, head of the Eastern Cape security police, who gave evidence throughout today's hearing.

He argued that the only reason Colonel Goosen could have for passing on such information to his superiors would be if he had something to hide. The whole chain of information from Colonel Goosen to Mr Kruger, therefore, had to be investigated, including calling Mr Kruger to give evidence if necessary, he added.

After Mr Biko's death in

police custody on September 12 Mr Kruger made a number of press statements in which he said that Mr Biko had been on a hunger strike and had been fed intravenously. However, Mr Kentridge said that these statements had been shown by the evidence and affidavits before the court to be "completely unfounded".

"It is absolutely clear that the minister was misled," Mr Kentridge went on. "Two questions now arise. Where did the cover-up start, and how high did it go? If we have answers to these it will tell us a great deal about what happened to Biko while in the custody of Colonel Goosen."

Mr Kentridge raised the possibility of calling the minister to give evidence after a dispute arose when he tried to put to Colonel Goosen part of a press statement issued by Mr Kruger on September 3. Colonel Goosen agreed that there were serious factual errors in the statement but said there was no evidence that it had in fact been made by Mr Kruger.

On the first day of the hearing Mr Kentridge had asked that a bulky file of reported press statements by Mr Kruger

should be admitted as evidence. His application was opposed today by counsel representing the police, Mr P. R. Van Rooyen.

Counsel for the district surgeon, who examined Mr Biko before his death, Mr R. Pickard, and Mr K. Van Lierde, the Deputy Attorney-General of the Transvaal, also objected. The magistrate, Mr M. J. Prins, said he would give a ruling on the matter tomorrow.

At the start of today's proceedings there was a clash between counsel for the police and counsel for the Biko family when Mr Van Rooyen queried the relevance of some of Mr Kentridge's questions to the security police. Mr Van Rooyen accused him of waging a "vendetta" against the security police.

During today's hearing the court was told that Mr Biko had never been allowed out of a public cell between August 18 and September 6, had not gone to the toilet for days on end and that his family was not informed when his condition was considered to be serious enough to warrant transferring him from Port Elizabeth to Pretoria.

Mr Fraser refuses questions on land deals

Melbourne, Nov 17.—Mr Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, today stormed out of a press conference here refusing to answer questions about allegations that Mr Phillip Lynch, the Federal Treasurer, was involved in highly profitable land deals.

Mr Fraser called the press conference to attack a policy speech for the December 10 general election just delivered by Mr Gough Whitlam, the Labour Party leader, but reporters were more interested in asking about Mr Lynch's future.—Agence France-Presse.

Our Melbourne Correspondent writes: Mr Whitlam launched his seventh election campaign in 11 years as Labour leader today but his speech is less likely to benefit Labour than the controversy over Mr Lynch's alleged property dealings.

While Mr Whitlam was speaking at the Sydney Opera House and later on television, Mr Lynch was in hospital outside Melbourne, his future clouded after allegations in the Victoria Parliament earlier this week that he had made substantial profits from land deals involving the Liberal Party and land developers and



Mr Whitlam launches the Australian Labour Party's election campaign with a speech at the Sydney Opera House.

that he had bought a penthouse with the proceeds. Mr Lynch is recovering from a kidney operation and still has made no statement although it was believed that he had a document detailing his personal finances handed to the Prime Minister today. The affair is unlikely to do the Liberal Party much good.

Since the Liberals gained power it has been Mr Lynch more than anyone else who has appealed to the public to refrain from tax evasion and large wage claims in the interest of improving the country's ailing economy. Now it has been clearly displayed that the Treasurer enjoys a life-

style of considerable wealth. So Mr Whitlam was able to begin his campaign in an atmosphere of hopefulness. Nothing has yet gone right for the Liberals.

The middle-of-the-road Australian democrats, who are clearly going to be a considerable force in this election, have already deprived the Liberals of many votes in the Victoria by-election and the Queensland election.

So, although Mr Whitlam's speech today might have lacked the excitement of his 1972 campaign, there was an air of confidence, caused more by Liberal Party troubles than Labour triumph.

The main thrust of the speech was to outline Labour's policies of restoring the national health scheme, Medibank, to its original form, abolishing payroll tax, and an employment subsidy plan. But perhaps the most important aspect of the speech was Mr Whitlam's avoidance of the word "socialism" and his emphasis on the fact that Labour would not go on a big spending boom.

The Labour Party will almost certainly poll much better than was thought at the time of the announcement of the election but Liberal setbacks notwithstanding, it still has a long way to go before being returned to office.

Nkomo-Mugabe talks to heal nationalist rift

Lusaka, Nov 17.—Talks aimed at uniting the two wings of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front guerrilla movement, weakened by an internal crisis, were due to start here today.

Mr Joshua Nkomo, the front's joint leader, flew from Lusaka to Maputo, the Mozambique capital, to meet Mr Robert Mugabe, his ally in the grouping. It is not known how long the talks would last.

In another development, a Zambian Government spokesman said President Kaunda

would fly to Mbala, in northern Zambia, tomorrow to meet President Nyerere of Tanzania.

Government sources said the two leaders have taken differing views over the timing of elections foreseen in the Anglo-American peace plan for Rhodesia and over other issues relating to Rhodesia's widening guerrilla war.

Zambia and Tanzania are two of the front-line states whose diplomacy and support for the guerrillas play a central role in determining the course of the fight against white minority rule in Rhodesia.—Reuters.

Surprised US admires Sadat move

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Nov 17

President Sadat's forthcoming visit to Israel is still causing reverberations in Washington. The American Government was taken as much by surprise as everyone else, and a State Department spokesman took pains this morning to repudiate any suggestion that the United States had heard about it in advance.

President Carter has said that he had been in daily contact with Mr Sadat. The spokesman made it clear that this was all part of the Administration's general diplomacy.

The Government's position is still that it welcomes President Sadat's move unconditionally. It is described as "a positive contribution to continuing efforts to open negotiations at Geneva for a comprehensive settlement of the Middle Eastern conflict".

This is a carefully-calculated way of putting it. The Americans have no wish to appear to be advocating a bilateral agreement between Egypt and Israel, for fear that creating such an impression would jeopardize the chances of a comprehensive settlement.

It is, however, perfectly clear that all Middle Eastern

diplomacy will be held in suspense until the results of President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem have been assessed. The Administration and commentators here are filled with astonished admiration for him.

Richard Davy writes: The Russians do not seem to approve of President Sadat's visit. Pravda writes that although there are many unclear points in the Egyptian-Israeli dialogue "one can discern in it the attempts of Tel Aviv and the forces behind it to urge Egypt on to the road of separate negotiations and deals with Israel".

Rhodesia's guerrilla war creates crisis for the mission hospitals

From Our Special
Correspondent
Salisbury, Nov 17

The guerrilla war in Rhodesia has created a crisis for the extensive network of mission hospitals and clinics which provide medical care for Africans in rural areas where about four-fifths of the population live.

According to the Association of Rhodesian Church Hospitals, the number of missionary doctors has fallen since last year from 30 to 18. Two were murdered, two were deported and the rest left—because of the war, Sister Margaret Murphy, a representative of the association, says. Another five are due to leave by the end of this year and no replacements have been found.

Eight of the 83 hospitals which these doctors served have closed and others are expected to shut shortly. More seriously, 10 of the 15 rural medical schools attached to the mission hospitals have also closed. These schools train medical assistants who are responsible for much of the basic health care in rural areas and are considered the backbone of the mission health-care system.

In Rhodesia, the mission hospitals have traditionally been responsible for caring for the needs of the majority of the black rural population. The Government operates a number of rural clinics but many of these have also been closed. The Government's own medical

resources are already overstretched by the war.

The mission hospitals tend to be situated in remote parts of the tribal trust lands where the war between the nationalist guerrillas and Rhodesian troops is most intense. They are far from the main European centres and are usually approached by long stretches of dirt road where land mines are a constant danger.

The mission doctors have found themselves caught in the middle. If they assist one side then the other is bound to react. "Frequently a mission doctor is asked to aid a wounded guerrilla," Father Randolph, a Jesuit priest and secretary of the Rhodesian Catholic Bishops' Conference, says. "If he refuses he is likely to be shot. But if he provides help the security forces will quickly find out and then he will be charged with assisting terrorists. So what can he do?"

The security forces are taking an increasingly hard line with missions which they suspect of assisting guerrillas. Two months ago the 110-bed Regina Coeli hospital near the Mozambique border was closed by the authorities and all its equipment and furnishings removed after a "contact" there between guerrillas and security forces.

But the murder of two mission doctors earlier this year has probably been the single biggest reason why so many are now leaving.

Americans bored by Mafia saga

From Michael Leapman
New York, Nov 17

The latest television ratings indicate a surprising new development in the culture of Americans: they are growing out of their obsession with the Mafia.

A nine-hour presentation of *The Godfather*, the best-selling Mafia novel which was turned into two lucrative films, was watched by considerably fewer people than the National Broadcasting Company, which screened it, had hoped.

The television version was aired on four successive nights, and consisted of the two Godfather films plus extra footage which was rescued from the cutting-room floor. NBC had confidently expected that the four-part series would give them a comfortable lead in the ratings war with the two other national networks.

Yet the first instalment, last Saturday, was watched in only 16,300,000 homes—which sounds a lot but put it only thirteenth in the week's ratings. The Sunday episode did a bit better, climbing to fifth place. All episodes have been accompanied by a pious disclaimer that any offence is meant towards Italian-Americans, from whose ranks the Mafia is largely recruited.

The Monday and Tuesday ratings have yet to be released, but it is already clear that, by the competitive standards of American network television, the series was a flop. It did not do nearly as well as last season's *Roots*, the dramatized version of black history, nor as well as *Washington Behind Closed Doors*, a fictional but realistic account of events leading up to Watergate.

What seems to be happening is that Americans are losing their fascination with organized crime which, although often lucrative and sometimes deadly, generates built-down to smug time and sleazy infringements of the law. Instead, they are turning to larger themes like historical crises against the black people and a pervasive corruption in government.

Parallel with this is a surge of interest in the fantasies of outer space, shown in the success of the films *Star Wars* and, more recently, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Street crime, some of it organized by the Mafia, is a part of everyday life in many American cities. The citizens now prefer to escape from it to science fiction or the verified somnifers behind Washington's closed doors.

The *Godfather* remains popular among certain elements, however. A group of 75 inmates of a prison in Queens, a borough of New York, have been sentenced to 35 days in solitary confinement for refusing to return to their cells at the stipulated time on Saturday because there was still an hour of the first episode to go.

There were more than 100 of the final episode while the other 425 inmates of the prison were given permission to stay up late to see it through to the end. So crime does not pay. At least, it does not pay the boss office as well as it used to.

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Britons freed on bail in Madagascar

By a Correspondent

Two British salvage experts detained in Madagascar two months ago in connexion with alleged breaches of state security were released on bail earlier this week.

Mr Steven Kingsley, aged 39, of Longfield, Kent, and Mr Christopher Williams, aged 35, of Chislehurst, Kent, had been held incommunicado in the capital, Antananarivo. It is believed that a number of French and Belgian citizens were also arrested.

On October 25 the two men were charged with having no residence or work permits and with "unlawful use of telecommunications equipment on board ship". They had been working on a cargo vessel which broke down in the Indian Ocean and had to be towed to the northern port of Diego Suarez.

The belief that Concorde is noisier than other aircraft and puts an unfair burden on people who live near airports was held by 66 per cent of those who answered, with only 17 per cent disagreeing with it.

Poll shows Americans in two minds over Concorde

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Nov 17

A public opinion poll published today showed that Americans are ambivalent about Concorde. According to the Harris Poll of 1,533 people throughout the country, 42 per cent opposed the decision to allow the Anglo-French supersonic jet to land in the United States, while 36 per cent favoured it. The rest were undecided.

The poll was published less than a week before the first scheduled Concorde flights by British Airways and Air France are due to land at New York's Kennedy Airport.

The belief that Concorde is noisier than other aircraft and puts an unfair burden on people who live near airports was held by 66 per cent of those who answered, with only 17 per cent disagreeing with it.

Those polled were asked whether they thought that Concorde was poorly built, and that America should wait until a better supersonic aircraft was created before allowing landings. Only 21 per cent supported this contention, while 34 per cent opposed it and 45 per cent were undecided.

The view that, now that the courts have given Concorde the go-ahead it should be given the chance to prove itself, was supported by 54 per cent.

Opponents of Concorde who live near Kennedy Airport are planning to mount another "drive-in" round its approach route on Sunday to protest against the decision to allow the airliner to land.

British Airways are installing a new departure and arrival lounge for the use of Concorde passengers at their terminal building at the airport.

Joint winner of the first
Christopher Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize

The Narrow Ground
Aspects of Ulster 1609-1969
A.T.Q. Stewart
Faber & Faber. £5.95

Referendum for Banabans

A referendum is to be held to determine the relationship between the island of Banabans, and the Gilbert Islands, and the status of phosphate revenues, which has been the source of much friction between the two sides.

The Foreign Office yesterday welcomed the announcement of direct talks between the parties and said it would be prepared to abide by the result of such a referendum.

Uganda ban lifted

Nairobi, Nov 17.—The Ugandan Government today lifted the ban on foreign newspapers and magazines which has been in force for three years.

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OVERSEAS

Party leaders modify policies on Nato and EEC as Greek election campaign reaches climax

From Mario Modiano
Athens, Nov 17

Every night this week Constitution Square, the heart of modern Athens, is surrendered to one of the main political parties for its final election campaign rally and a show of strength by thousands of supporters before voting on Sunday.

This ritual of electioneering is traditional in Greece, but it is increasing in popularity of television in politics. So much so that the enthusiastic flag-waving multitudes now have to be strategically deployed on the square for maximum television effect.

It has been a spirited and exciting campaign all round. It has left the streets of towns and villages littered with tons of multicoloured propaganda leaflets, and their walls thickly coated with layers of superimposed and re-souped portraits of rival candidates.

Above all, the campaign has left the vacillating voter more confused than ever. It is, perhaps, a blessing that this hectic ritual bans all political activity on Saturday, the eve of polling.

The questions that existed before the campaign began, remain unanswered:

Will the emergence of the ultra-right National Rally diminish the chances of Mr Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, and his ruling New Democracy party, of winning a comfortable

majority in the next Parliament?

Which party will come second — Mr George Pavlos's moderate and pro-EEC Democratic Centre Union, which has been the main opposition party since 1974, or the Marxist-Socialist Pasok of Mr Andreas Papandreu who advocates a non-aligned international posture for Greece?

Television is becoming such an important factor in shaping opinion that after Pasok's very impressive meeting in Salonika was shown nationally, many resented right-wing defectors from Mr Karamanlis's party hurriedly recanted because of what they saw as a looming threat of Marxism.

Equally important are the shifts in policy that leaders felt compelled to make as the campaign evolved. Mr Pavlos who saw that his negative attitude towards Nato was losing him voters since 1936, is out to get as many votes as possible from Mr Papandreu.

One respected psephologist, who refused to venture a direct forecast, told me: "In Greece there are three big pots: one for the right which usually contains 40 per cent of the electorate; one for the centre which houses both Pavlos and Papandreu with 35; and one on the left with 10 per cent. You can ladle the remaining 15 per cent from one pot to the other, and that is why for the last 30 years the differences in Greek elections have never been spectacular."

He also promises a "peaceful and programmed change to socialism" to counter suggestions that Pasok aims at a Marxist revolution.

The most striking change of policy was when Mr Papandreu reassured the military that Pasok did not hold them responsible for the 1967 coup. This was designed to placate the Greek officers who are strongly hostile to Marxism and would certainly react if Pasok appeared to be close to power.

These moves work both ways. The communist left is already attacking Mr Papandreu for promising the "junta remnants" within the armed forces a virtual amnesty, not unlike the one promised by the junta-sympathising National Rally.

The Moscow-oriented Greek Communist Party, which is running alone and under its own name for the first time since 1936, is out to get as many votes as possible from Mr Papandreu.

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US officials arrive in Somalia as Russians go

Mogadishu, Nov 17.—As the exodus of Soviet advisers from Somalia gained momentum, the chairman of the United States House of Representatives' armed services committee arrived in Mogadishu today to hear the Somali view of the military situation in the Horn of Africa.

Mr Melvin Price, whose committee's duties include the approval of American arms deals, flew in on a special American government aircraft with seven other Congressmen and an eight-man military party, including two colonels.

They were driven straight to the residence of President Siad Barre. American diplomatic sources said that they would also meet other Government and military officials and leave Mogadishu tonight for Zambia.

Mr Price who has already visited Israel, Egypt and Kenya, told reporters on arrival that his primary interest was to know Somalia's view of the defensive picture around the region.

Our Nairobi Correspondent writes: Twelve MPs from Somali-speaking areas of northern Kenya met President Kenyatta at Nakuru, 100 miles from Nairobi today to assure him that Somalia's living in Kenya oppose claims to their areas by Somalia.

President Kenyatta, receiving a report on a recent series of loyalty demonstrations held in northern Kenya, said Kenya would never surrender an inch of its territory.

Retiring man who made Janata Government tackle the immense problem of rural poverty

Force behind 'Gandhian socialism'

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Nov 17

The number of Indian ministers against whom there were no complaints of corruption "could be counted on one's fingertips," according to Mr Charan Singh, the Home Minister.

Such an awkward, uncompromising remark is wholly characteristic of the 70-year-old north Indian politician who has emerged as the strongest force behind the Janata Party's newly announced economic strategy.

Mr Singh, a retiring man who only warms when talking about village life, has successfully insisted that the coalition Government should tackle the immense problem of rural poverty.

The stock exchanges have reacted negatively to this "Gandhian socialism". Textile shares have fallen particularly heavily.

The party's new strategy aims to combat joblessness and the pointless drift to urban slums.



Mr Charan Singh: awkward, uncompromising remark.

trover over the role of large-scale and small industry can be expected.

Weaving illustrates the dilemma. India's handlooms at present produce only about 4,000 million yards of cloth annually, while the mills turn out about 9,000 million yards. Yet to clothe everyone properly in India, an estimated extra 11,000 million yards are needed. The Janata policy, however, would gradually reduce the output of the mills to favour handlooms. The danger is that if they do not expand their production sufficiently, the gap will widen.

There is a fundamental contradiction between Janata's demand that essential commodities must be produced in sufficient quantities and the decision to switch more resources to cottage and rural industry. Supporters of Mrs Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, said last night they would go ahead with an attempt to restore her leadership of the Congress Party.

Pravda upset by West's human rights attitude

Moscow, Nov 17.—Pravda today accused some Nato countries of waging a propaganda war over human rights at the European security conference in Belgrade.

It said that Mr Arthur Goldberg, the United States chief delegate, was using the rights issue to distract attention from the serious problems which worried people in Europe.

Pravda added that a number of Western countries continued to hamper the work of the conference by "waving Basket Three in the air"—a reference to the section of the Helsinki declaration dealing with humanitarian issues.

"Sensing the weakness of their positions in the conference halls, some members of Nato tried during the past week to launch a propaganda war in the lobbies. But their dirty trick was condemned by the overwhelming majority of delegations," Reuters.

Dessa Trevisan writes from Belgrade: A file containing documents on alleged violations of human rights in the Soviet Union and other East European countries was today handed over to the Italian delegation.

It was brought by Signor Carlo di Meana, the president of the Venice Biennale, and included a list of dissident intellectuals from Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia who have been refused visas and prevented from attending the Biennale whose theme is cultural dissent.

Japan gets American force cuts warning

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Nov 17

After living under America's security umbrella for three decades, Japan was given two forceful warnings today that the military presence of the United States in Asia is rapidly waning.

The first came from Mr Harold Brown, the American Secretary of Defence, who indicated today that the United States might gradually reduce its military strength in the Western Pacific, including Japan, after ground forces are withdrawn from South Korea.

Mr Brown is reported to have told a group of visiting Japanese politicians in Washington that Japan must now take steps to increase its own defence potential against submarine and air attacks.

A further blow came from Manila today. Under a new bilateral agreement, Filipino officers will replace American commanders at the naval base at Subic Bay and at Clark Air Force base in the Philippines.

The agreement was reached to provide recognition of Philippine sovereignty, when American and Filipino officers convened in Manila yesterday to review the terms of the 30-year-old treaty. The original terms of the treaty allowed America to maintain bases in the Philippines until 1991. However President Marcos is now insisting that the term should be shortened to 1985.

The Filipinos have also insisted that the Americans can operate the bases in future only under the national flag of the Philippines. As a consequence, American commanders cannot now be expected to have effective control over the bases in the event of emergency operations.

In essence, America's declining military presence in Asia appeared to reach a climax when President Carter announced earlier this year that his Administration intended to withdraw 33,000 ground troops from South Korea.

In reality, America has consistently closed its bases and reduced its forces in Asia in the past five years—before and after the end of the conflict in Vietnam.

The decline in America's military strength in Asia extends across the entire region.

Japan, America's most important ally and trading partner in Asia, has also seen a 10 per cent decline in American military power within the last three years.

At present 46,000 American officers and men are stationed in 12 large bases on the main islands of Japan and Okinawa. However, their numbers are expected to decrease when one-third of the ground forces on Okinawa begin to rotate between the island and the United States.

Manila: A senior Philippines Opposition leader today accused the United States of shoring up the repressive martial law regime of President Marcos and of intervening in the internal affairs of his country.

Mr José Diokno, a former Senator said that American military and economic aid to result from the bases agreement, as well as any American security assistance, would prop up the Marcos regime and enhance American security in this part of the world.

Mr Diokno, the president of the Civil Liberties Union, told the Foreign Correspondents' Association of the Philippines that he was for the abrogation of the bases agreement with America.—Agence France-Press.

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Vietnam fugitives see Australia as only refuge

From Our Correspondent
Bangkok, Nov 17

Vietnamese refugees escaping from their homeland by boat now look on Australia as the only country open to them.

Many refugees arriving off Thailand give Australia as their final destination, and stop only to take on fuel, water and food. Some are of Chinese origin and are obviously rich. Their boats are well-equipped and they have good charts.

Their destination would have been Thailand, Malaysia or some other part of South-East Asia but now all countries in the area are making it difficult for them to land. They say their only chance of refuge is to reach Australia.

Doubts cast on 13-day crawl with broken leg

Sydney, Nov 17.—Doubts about a student's story that he had spent 13 days crawling unnoticed along a creek bed in the centre of Sydney with a broken leg were expressed by the police today.

A police spokesman said that several people had come forward saying that they had seen Mr Stephen Sheehy, who is 18, fit and well several miles away, the day after he was supposed to have fallen off his bicycle on a busy road breaking his leg.

His father said today that his son was still upset by the experience. When he disappeared he was worried by coming examinations at a technical college.—Reuters.

Rush to enter university as China reverses policy

From David Bodavia
Hongkong, Nov 17

A rush of school leavers in China applying for university entrance under newly announced procedures is causing serious problems.

Provinces after province has followed the recent national directive to allow young people to enter university direct from school if they are bright enough. This is a total reversal of the policy followed since the Cultural Revolution, under which they first had to work on in factories, or join the armed forces.

Judging by provincial radio reports, the eagerness of secondary school pupils to go straight to university has led to the unjustified suppression of some applications by local authorities.

The screening out of the less

bright applicants at preliminary examinations has been forbidden as causing "contradictions between units". But it seems that no satisfactory means has yet been found to cope with the rush of applicants for the entrance examinations, which are being conducted on a province-by-province basis.

Certain youths are being excluded from entrance, which will also cause dissatisfaction. Contrary to the policy of the late Mao Tse-tung, farmers' children who intend to return to their villages after graduation are no longer eligible for university education, although they will probably be allowed to go to agricultural colleges.

No provision is being made for students who are not 100 per cent physically fit, so that handicapped youths are barred from university education.

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Midnight Court to give evidence of potential at Ascot



mark yesterday.

Tiepolino

his audacious treble when Legs Branch finished unplaced behind Live Spark in the second division of the Novices' Hurdle. Similarly, the Foxter enjoyed mixed fortune.

Although Toy Flag experienced no difficulty in scoring at Stratford-on-Avon, Hanswile, the 6-favourite for the Cottage Rake Handicap Steeplechase, went lame and was pulled up approaching the fifth fence from home. It left the way open for Brown Admiral to beat his remaining opponent, King Shaw, with some ease.

Fred Rhinell said that Brown Admiral, who fell in last spring's Grand National, was operated on at the end of the season for soft palate by Geoffrey Braine, who is the leading expert on respiratory problems in the country. If all goes well, Brown Admiral's eight-year-old, year-old will return to Aintree next April.

It was good to see Zellaona run one up as a winner of the Hounslow Handicap Hurdle. His owners deserve a reward for their astuteness. When Zellaona's

[illegible]

Don't Fail (Mrs. G. Lantz) 10-11-0
G. Thompson (10-11-14) 1
Red Trench Webster (SS-1) 1
Buckingham Street.
1. Walkman (11-1-3) 2
ALSO RAN: Various Express
(eth), 12-1 Walkman Hill, 5-0 Forward
6 cm.
NOTE—win, 1sp; places, 11p. 19p
1st Race, 12-10. 1. Fanciel, 4
Wantage, 6. 2d.
3.15 (3.00) WARRENDALE HURDLE
(Handicap; 500g; 2m)
Whitcomb, Jr. h. by Reiko—
Kathleen Rose (T. Lantz) 5-10-17
Morris 4-11-1
Morris 4-11-1
Morris 4-11-1
Morris 4-11-1
ALSO RAN: 5-3 for Monopie (f.)
7-1 Hidden Talent, 10-2 Baltimore, 8-2
10-1 Hunt, 10-10
3-1 Laurin, 10-10
3-1 Laurin, 10-10

Aslan Throld, 11, 61.
S.A.S. (3-18) SOUTHERN CROSS
MURDOCH (DN II: 3-y-e notices:
2-56; 2m)
 Mearns, J. F., by Regentia-Mag-
 bews (Major N. Flynn), 10-3
 Priorities Jack, 10, 11
 Portans A. Smith-Cross, 120-11
ALSO RAN: 4-2, 1 Bay Norman Bank
(4th), 7-1 Southern Nevada Intercourse
(4th), 7-1 Southern Nevada Intercourse
 Ken Kapper, 30-1 Garden Gurn, 81-1
 19-1 19-1 19-1 19-1 19-1 19-1
 Genevise Rocked (A) Miss Pouchard,
 Dorenda, Glenora, 16, 18
TOTE--Wn. EL-41; places, 41p.
Wn. 19-1; 1st place, 18, 19, 20,
Dredgen, at Chudrone, GA 121.
Kawiric did not run
Wn. 211-20. TREBLE: Officially

Americans increase their lead

In a jump-out among six riders in the international doubles and triples event, the American team of Michael Matz and his partner, Michaela Matz, just edged a British rider, John Whitaker, to take top prize and 10 points that moved him into a tie for second place in the overall standings.

Six of the 17 international riders had gone clear over a tough course containing two triples and one quadruple jump, and four of them again went around without a fault. In the final round, the deciding factor, Matz rode a well-calculated course aboard Jet Run and finished in 37.0sec, just one-tenth of a second ahead of Whitaker, who rode on the same horse with Ryan, son of the late Robert Ridgway, of the United States, who came home in 37.5sec. On Southside, Lt. Edgar, the British rider, was also clear and took 38.0sec, while the American fourth place with 39.0sec.

Does Domestic Violence Act protect unmarried women?

and in the present case should. There was no merit in being wrong. If their Lordships found that the Act was not merely procedural then, without any question of reversing previous decisions, they could reach another conclusion.

Lord Justice Goff: I am not sure about that. When the whole case was the construction of the Act and the decision by two other courts is that it has a certain construction, surely that is binding on us.

Counsel said that if the construction of a new Act was wrong it could surely be put right. It did not bind the court in per-

Lord Justice Cumming Bruce: This is not a very long perpetuity. The Master of the Rolls: If an Act is passed in the year 1900 from the case where the Act has been in force for a long time, if the Act is amended and the new subsection (2) will have no effect at all. Very few of these unmarried women have any property at all.

The President: If this court could not do this, the law would be wrong but said that these wrong decisions must continue, and that it will be chaos throughout the country.

The Master of the Rolls: I would say that the Master of the court of five has not more authority than one of three. This is not a very long perpetuity. It is stated to deal with an urgent problem. Such a court should be set up at once as a special authority.

Counsel said that he would have no objection to the Lord Justice Goff: You will

Lord Justice Shaw: One difference between this and the criminal cases is that there is no one party to the case. In civil cases you have two parties, where one may suffer from the actions of the other.

Counsel said that a mystique had grown up that the Court of Appeal was binding on itself, but that was not the position. The Court had grown up to the tradition and had grown up.

Lord Justice of the Rolls: I am wondering whether the present category of case may not be a new exception—where an Act of Parliament gives a statutory protection of the unmarried person it may be similar to the position in the criminal cases.

Counsel said that the only other recourse was an appeal to the House of Lords and that took such a long time that it was almost impossible of such a vital subject as accommodation. If the Court did not grant leave to appeal, the House granted leave to appeal, the hearing might not be till next May or next year.

The hearing was adjourned.

Victoria Square Property Co Ltd v Southwark London Borough Council

Under section 16, it was implicit that Parliament had regarded the expense as a decision reasonably made and a decision in that respect which would not be liable to be quashed. The court, in Part III, the demolition or closure must properly be postponed for an extended period. But a procedural mishap which had befallen them in the county court proceedings, and which had prevented the claimants obtaining confirmation of their compulsory purchase order, have not achieved their objective perfectly and the court in paragraph 12 was tailor-made for the purpose which they had been seeking. The court in paragraph 17 (2), which contemplated quite different purpose, could not have been more correct. The court had reached a correct conclusion, and the appeal should be dismissed as it was in the hands of the court as to discretion, was difficult.

to imagine what language the legislature could have used to control the court's discretion. The court reviewed the local authority's decision that that in section 20 of the 1948 Act, the local authority was not, in regarding the financial detriment to the owners, if they were to exercise the right, to be taken into account. The court had been taken account of as irrelevant matter. The acceptance of the local authority's decision, which allowed them to evict their sitting tenant, whom the council were then obliged to find alternative accommodation, was a financial gain which that brought to the owners was an advantage which was not a detriment. The council house had been allowed to fall into disrepair. The fact that council houses of that type were scarce would mean that windfall to the owners could not, it was argued, be a material factor influencing the decision in favour of the owners.

As an argument on the merits of the case, the council's argument must force, but the court found the council's decision as erroneous in law it was not necessary to consider its relevance with weight. In deciding on the merits whether it was just and equitable to grant the compulsory purchase order, the financial implications for the owners must always be relevant. What weight

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Tonight, 7.30. *Macbeth*.
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THE ARTS

News from the past: rise of the dictators

Before Hindsight (u)

The Other Cinema

The Amsterdam Kill

(2a)

Casino/General

release

It is perhaps appropriate that the first story inspired by the cinema, Kipling's "Mrs Bathurst" of 1904, should have been about a man destroyed through his obsession with an image seen in a newspaper film, and that one of the earliest poems about the cinema should have been Sir Henry Newbolt's reflections on Great War newsreels. There is something peculiarly haunting about new-film, especially old footage, something that makes us momentarily aware of life's transience and the fact that the earth abides. And for this reason alone, Jonathan Lewis's account of the 1930s as presented by the British cinema's weekly newsreels is a compelling experience. But mysticism, Lewis and nostalgia are not Mr. Lewis's purpose, nor is social history; they are merely an agreeable by-product of it.

Lewis and his producer and co-researcher Elizabeth Taylor-Mead have sifted the archives of Pathe, Gaumont British, Movietone, Paramount and Universal show the way the cinema of Hitler and Mussolini was presented to British moviegoers in their local cinemas. Into this they have woven material from the newsreels, a chilling 1937 interview with a uniformed Oswald Mosley and a powerful critique of Chamberlain's Munich policy by Harold Nicolson, and extracts from *March of Time's* anti-Nazi documentaries and from left-wing propaganda films that were shown mainly at small political gatherings.

Not surprisingly we get a very partial view of the period. One typically shows a vast iron staircase being erected in Bavaria while Nazi officials watch happy lecherous-clad ladies dance with honey-drilled soldiers, and has shown a moderator talking glibly of an unchanging world. At much the same time footage of Nazi book-burnings failed to reach our local cinemas. George Bernard Shaw comes in as we come to see the destruction of the film in Germany as the best news from that country since the war; Clement Attlee appears to endorse Eden's resignation in a worldly garbled fashion, a sequence that was

distributed then withdrawn; a review of 1938 finds Britain dancing the Lambeth Walk on the brink of the abyss.

Describing these clips one slips into easier ironies than the director permits himself. The working restrictions—economic, political, commercial, technical—are explained through interviews with various professional filmmakers of the period, among them Edgar Anstey who edited *March of Time*, George Sanger and Leslie Mitchell of *Movietone* News, the Communist film producer Ivor Montagu, and they all come out of it well. Indeed, this is a picture made without rancour. It never uses juxtapositions of film to set one against the other; it attempts to suggest the existence of some vast establishment conspiracy. The title is indeed well chosen. Lewis clearly wants to imitate a debate, and has shown a moderator talking glibly of an unchanging world. At much the same time footage of Nazi book-burnings failed to reach our local cinemas. George Bernard Shaw comes in as we come to see the destruction of the film in Germany as the best news from that country since the war; Clement Attlee appears to endorse Eden's resignation in a worldly garbled fashion, a sequence that was

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Basilisk-eyed Mitchum on the heroin trail

larger kind. And the linking commentary by that latterday journalistic exterminator James Cameron is merely a sophisticated variant of Leslie Mitchell's *Movietone* Newsreels, rather than a radical alternative to it.

But that having been said, let me repeat that *Before Hindsight* is a continually engrossing and thought-provoking film, one of the best the British Film Institute Production Board has given us. My real objection, perhaps, is that it should have been half as long again.

Robert Mitchum belongs with Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas to the second generation of Hollywood character actors, who emerged in the late 1940s to relieve the pressure on the formidable quartet of Robinson, Cagney, Tracy and Bogart. Their

مکذا من اجل



What's the point of Ken White's mural?

Ken White spent three months working eight hours a day on this beautiful eerie mural. The place is Swindon and the mural is Swindon as it used to be.

He says he did it because the "wall just asked for a mural" and because he thought it might brighten the place up a bit.

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THE MURAL WAS A THAMES-DOWN COMBINATION ARTS PROJECT

Mr Chapple and his supporters could tarnish their image in the battle against the left

'Moderates' run the risk of going too far to keep control of the electricians' union

The electricians' union holds a rules revision and policy-making conference in Blackpool next week, an event in itself not widely remarkable. The scabrous deliberations of the labour movement are not often regarded with high seriousness. At this conference brings into the public gaze a political over-structure that industrial negotiators have shown an understandable shyness about reporting. Tread softly, for you read on my lawyers.

It presents a further chapter in the long-running battle between the entrenched right-wing leadership of Mr Frank Chapple, the union's general secretary, and his supporters, and the left-wing minority on the executive council who aimed a power takedown in the elections of 1973—only to find their policies (and personalities) discredited.

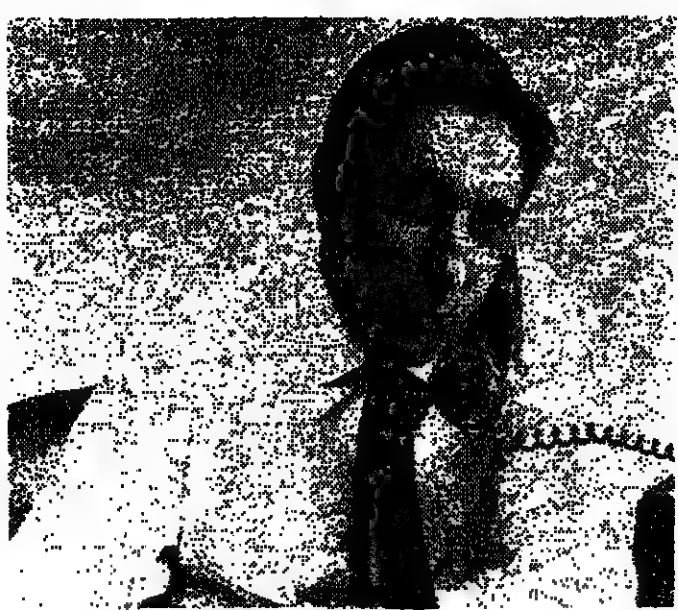
In his union's journal *Contact*, Mr Chapple said this month that the conference is a watershed in our history, adding: "Having consistently not the battle of genuinely held elections, the communist no Trotskyist based opposition in the union will attempt to gain control through manipulation and intimidation of the conference."

But there is little room for doubt that the executive will get away with the conference (to employ the unfortunate phrase used by one of the prominent moderate group in

me). To begin with, the agenda has a distinctly dandy air. The motions on the social contract all talk about what happens after Phase Two, which is not surprising because they were designed for a midsummer conference. In any event, Mr Chapple's famous dictum, "resolutions are resolutions, not the laws of the Medes and Persians," surely stands. In fact, when it comes to rules revision, the resolutions may not even be resolutions. At the last such conference, delegates were asked to abandon motions put up by branches in favour of a new rule book drawn up by the executive that they had never seen before. Objection to the platform, they did, and the executive won every point.

It will be interesting to observe the fate of motion 15, from Rotherham, which congratulates the leadership of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union for pursuing "progressive policies" but feels that the executive council and senior officers "can, on occasions, be reluctant to accept justified criticism."

In this respect it may be instructive to consider the fate of one of Mr Chapple's critics, Mr Harold Best, executive councillor for the Yorkshire division. He was elected in 1973 along with two other "independents" who are socialists but not members of the Labour Party. After a later election, without naming



Mr Frank Chapple: a continuing battle.

the three, Mr Chapple said in *Contact* that their policies were "as old as the hills or as Marx", and "without any shadow of a doubt they would inexorably return us to the corrupt and undemocratic regime of which we rid this union 16 years ago". Mr Chapple is by chance also editor of *Contact*, and efforts by those who had been criticized to exercise a right of reply failed. Their articles were not printed.

vigorously denies. He took legal advice, which found that the ballot inquiry had not given Mr Best an opportunity to speak in his own defence or challenge the evidence given against him. He was advised to seek a court declaration that the report of the inquiry was contrary to natural justice and should be set aside, and that he had not acted in breach of rule. But because he has been refused legal aid, he cannot take the case to court.

And for the moment, there the matter stands. The moral of the story appears to be that it is unwise to stand on a politically non-conformist policy platform. The moderates, on the executive currently enjoy a majority of eight to four against their opponents. But there are apparently moves afoot to buttress their position.

For the past two years, two executive seats have not been filled following the death of their incumbents, Mr McKernan in Ireland and Mr Don Sheehy in Manchester. It may be argued that the elections were postponed because the EETPU is in merger talks with the engineering workers' union. But that has not stopped the AUEW from filling executive seats promptly as they fell vacant.

The "moderates" play now seems to be that Mr Chapple and Mr Charlie Lovell, secretary of the plumbing section, should be given a vote to make the forces of moderation un-

assailable by the left. Elections in Manchester and for a Scottish seat (Ireland is slated for dissolution as an executive position) might otherwise push the balance of power to a 6-5 tie with the casting vote held by the president.

He is elected from the executive council since the full-time presidential post was abolished by a ballot of the membership. Since that time, it has been held by Mr Tom Breakell, an executive councillor and a leading supporter of Mr Chapple.

None of this appears in the documents for conference. Indeed, it is hard to find out from the papers lately released to the press just what is going on.

The EETPU executive meets in Blackpool tomorrow to decide on conference strategy. It will be surprising if there is not a political clash to be mirrored on a larger scale when the delegates meet on Monday. The electricians' union has a worthy, if not entirely successful, record of fighting for the cause of Soviet dissidents within the TUC. Since the last conference, that outward concern has had precious little internal value. The standing of the right-wingers who dominate the union will inevitably be diminished to "the unacceptable face of moderation" if past practice is to repeat itself.

Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

Bernard Levin

Solzhenitsyn's roar of defiance on the long winter march into night

Alexander Solzhenitsyn arrived in the West in February 1974 like some huge volcano, his expulsion representing the most complete confession of moral bankruptcy and turpitude yet made by his country's rulers. (It is worth reminding ourselves today of the courage of the others who refuse to accept solzhenitsyn, not only Dr Sakharov but General Grigorenko, who has just been given permission to travel abroad for a much-needed operation, and whose only concern is that if he goes he might not be allowed back in.) It soon became clear that the volcano was by no means extinct: Solzhenitsyn's television appearances in this country (and in the United States) had an effect on great and continuing that the only appropriate analogy is with the way in which some astronomers think the universe started: the echoes of Solzhenitsyn's Big Bang continue to vibrate in the mind, and the fallout is still fluttering to earth.

But it was not only the moral and political effect of Solzhenitsyn's arrival that gave promise of continuing: it was also the literary. (Not, of course, that it is possible to separate the two sides of such a man.) No fewer than 25 books, it appeared, were already planned in outline or detail: several of them were already written (and several have appeared, including *August 1914*, *Lolita* in Zurich and the second volume of *The Gulag Archipelago*), others, it seemed, existed complete in this amazing man's head.

Almost every artistic genius has understandably felt the need, in the course of his work, to turn aside from the main stream of his creative destiny, and to explore for a time some of his tributaries. The result need not be works of lesser quality or even scale: Wagner wrote both *Tristan* and the *Master-singers* between the second act of *Siegfried* and the rest of the *Ring*, and if you do not like that comparison remember that Beethoven wrote the Eighth Symphony between the Seventh and the Ninth.

And so it is with the Russian master. I have just been reading an astonishing new work by him, called *Prussian Nights* (published by Collins/Harvill), a huge narrative poem, clearly autobiographical in inspiration, translated by Robert Conquest, who has kept as closely as may be to both the metre and the rhyme-



Solzhenitsyn: an epic poem of war at its worst.

scheme of the original (it is published in parallel text). I do not at all agree with the dismissive way in which it has been discussed by some of the reviewers, including Robert Nye in *The Times*, and I want, therefore, to offer another view today.

Prussian Nights describes a moment in the Second World War, in which Solzhenitsyn served with considerable distinction as an artillery officer; his unit took part in the advance into East Prussia at the beginning of 1945, and it is during that offensive that the episode of the poem takes place. It was on that march that Solzhenitsyn saw the things that finally moved him into open defiance of the Soviet state; he made a formal complaint about some of the horrors he had witnessed, whereupon he was arrested and sent to a concentration camp. And it was in the camp that he composed *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* and planned *The First Circle*, and also wrote, entirely in his head, this poem.

Epic poems, and that is what *Prussian Nights* is, are not much in fashion nowadays: Chesterton's *Lepanto* was a long time ago. And I suspect that this very fact has coloured the reaction of some of those

who have written about Solzhenitsyn's. For it has to be read in a single sitting, if the sweep and force of the work are to be properly felt. (I remember Professor Allardyce Nicoll making this point most pertinently in the introduction to his fine edition of Chapman's *Homer*, a work in so strange a style that if you look too close at the trees the wood disappears altogether, whereas if you treat it as Keats presumably must have done, and gulp it down in one huge meal, it will have the same effect on you as it did on him.)

Having said that, I am under the uncomfortable necessity of finding passages to quote which deny the thesis I have just expounded. But I think this will give you some taste of it:

It hurts to gaze through the sun's stream:
The snow field sparkles aglow.
There's not a wheel-track to be seen.
Under shining ice, in a dust of snow,
The forests stretch quietly away.
Back there in our Russian spaces
Where the front was, the woods have gone.
Miles and miles of stumps remain:

Army axes cut them down.
We used the trunks of our own pines
To build the bunkers of our lines.
This would have been the place to fight—
See them standing, proud and white.
And there's no Russian saw to fell them!...

The lakes are sparkling with blue ice,
The rivers wrapped in whiteness.
And in the villages, the shanties,
The oak cupboards, the things that fill them,
The pianos and the fireplaces,
The radios and the libraries.
The road's a real Nevsky Prospekt—
Dostoevsky—not a house without him:

The Works, odd volumes—none, in fact,
Even a manuscript about him.
One of the most impressive things
about *Prussian Nights* is the poet's
ability to contrast passages like that
not only with descriptions of battle
and hand-to-hand fighting (when the
verse becomes almost comic-operaic,
but with pictures—surely drawn from
life—of the atrocities that finally led

him to his protest, and of the Soviet troops liberated by their comrades from German prisoner-of-war camps and now being marched straight from them to Stalin's grimmer Gulag:

See in formation—with a guilty look—
March Russians. Prisoners. Endless.
Brand of a flame that no moment
guarantees.

They tramp the hard path under
hanging branches.
And always "Why?" their thought
runs on and on.
They've not been summoned to the
celebration.

And to our fears they've had no
invitation.
So they, alone in all the world
unwanted,
Move forward, their necks bowed as
though to bend

Under the harsh stroke of a clumsy
axe-blade,
Towards the distant parts of a cruel
land.

But the most powerful aspect of the poem is the way the poet matches the drive of his verse, its pulsing metre and varying pace, to the demands of his account of the Russian army's drive. The reader is swept along with the advance, checking what it does, watching Solzhenitsyn's men pause to eat, loot or rape; this sense of being part of the poem is what makes me say that the reader should treat it as a single open across history, to take individual lines or even stanzas, but he must use a grasping the whole than to scoop a single painful from a rushing river. (*Prussian Nights* also repays a second reading immediately after the first; though long for a poem by today's standards, it is still only some 1,300 lines.)

Prussian Nights has an exceptional biographical interest, because it is Solzhenitsyn's own account (the only one he has so far given) of the time in which he was turning himself into the spiritual and artistic giant we now know. But it would still, I believe, be a mighty achievement even if it were anonymous, and I urge any reader whose heart and imagination can still be stirred by poetry, war, truth and choice to try it.

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Why the Gulf waits anxiously for peace in the Middle East

I have just returned from a visit to the Gulf, where I found everyone, from the highest to the lowest, following with growing anxiety the negotiations in Washington which, for good or ill, are going to determine the fate of the whole area. It is easy to take their attitudes for granted. There is a marked contrast—marked, at any rate, when seen from the Gulf—between the solicitude shown for the susceptibilities of one party in the Arab-Israeli dispute and the general lack of interest in the views held by an important section of the other.

Moshe Dayan, barnstormer across the United States, inciting his audiences to sabotage the policy of the government whose guest he is. The British Government prepares to receive Menachem Begin, presumably at least as much to listen as to admonish. But we do not see Gulf foreign ministers turning up in Washington to rebuke President Carter for his vacillations, or in London to denounce Mr Callaghan for the inappropriateness of inviting Mr Begin to be fêted in England in spite of his past record, and at a time when his outlook towards peace has been so negative and his actions as demonstrated in South Lebanon last week are so violent. Yet the Gulf is more vital to the prosperity, even the economic survival, of the West and especially of western Europe than the Ruhr is to the economic survival of Germany or the Ukraine to the prosperity of Russia, whereas Israel, so far as military, is not.

Yet, in spite of its crucial importance, western Europe misguidedly appears to have virtually contracted out politically of the Middle East.

I was interested to see Shauli Zayed, one of the friendlier and most constructive critics of the West, quoted as saying in a Lebanese magazine in almost the exact words he used to me two weeks ago that the only real threat to the oil supplies from the Gulf come from America's excessive championing of Israeli policies. The intense concern felt by governments in the Gulf over the progress of negotiations for a Middle East peace settlement is attributable to more than general Arab solidarity. There are more than a million Palestinian living and working in the Gulf which means that the Gulf is at least as directly concerned with the fate of the Palestinians as is Jordan or Lebanon.

It has, of course, by now become conventional orthodoxy, even in Washington, to say that there can be no peace in the Middle East without a solution of the Palestine problem (justice for the Palestinians). This change of attitude about the Palestinians came in the Gulf, by Palestinians and indigenous Gulf-dwellers alike. But I found a growing suspicion that Washington might be trying to water down its commitment.

"Where does President Carter stand now?" was the question I was asked everywhere I went, and it was not an easy one to answer.

The danger seems to be that it may become tempting to look for agreements with everybody except the Palestinians. Of course it might be easier to find solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict if the Palestinian factor were removed from the equation. No doubt Israel could be induced to



President Sadat: a diplomatic coup?

withdraw from the whole of Sinai by some face-saving formula which ensured her effective control over Sharm el-Sheikh for a long time to come.

More difficult, but not impossible, would be some agreement over the Golan Heights, involving demilitarization, international supervision, and the dismantling of Israeli settlements on Syrian territory, which would give both sides some security in purely military terms. But neither of these withdrawals would bring peace any nearer unless Israel was prepared to accept the Palestinian reality.

Only last week the contrast in attitudes towards peace was shown up with unusual clarity by President Sadat's most dovish speech ever on the one hand, and by the ferocious Israeli air attack on such Lebanon on the other. The humiliation inflicted on the Arabs by such a massive display of force to which no reply is possible, given the present disparity in military strength, seemed to create another obstacle on the road to peace.

President Sadat has now broken the diplomatic logjam in a spectacular manner by his proposed visit to the Knesset and may yet surprise us all by bringing off a major diplomatic coup. But should Mr Begin remain intransigent and continue to ignore the fundamental issue of the Palestinians then it is difficult to see what President Sadat's bold step can achieve.

A question frequently asked in the Middle East is, does Begin feel that while he knows how to live with war, to live with peace is beyond him? The next few weeks should bring us nearer to an answer. Should it be the affirmative, then about President Carter fail to live up to the high expectations which were placed upon him earlier in the year then the outlook for peace in the Middle East and for Western interests in the area is gloomy indeed.

Dennis Walters

The author is Conservative MP for Westbury.
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© The final lines of yesterday's article by Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits except the word: "It would remove without cost a major irritant to détente and international understanding, yielding benefits far exceeding the interests of the immediate beneficiaries."

Father Christmas won't be visiting Hannah this year

Many old people will be utterly alone this Christmas. With no presents, no Christmas Dinner and no-one to talk to.

For just the price of a single present, you could help turn their Christmas into one of good cheer.

£5 provides 25 Christmas Dinners for old people overseas. £30 will adopt a Granny overseas for one year.

Christmas is a family time. Please remember all the unfortunate people who have no family. A good-will gift to them means so much more.

Please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King. Help the Aged, Room T6, FREEPOST 30, London W1E 7JZ.

* Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

Keeping the record straight as the bat

Cricket, without its hallowed chronicle of the glorious deeds of a century, is but a game of 10 wickets for 10 runs, or Sobers setting about the bowling of Nash at Swansea) would be, as Porgy said of women, "a sometime thing", a mere pastime, the players but flickering figures in white glimpsed from a train window.

Tomorrow, part of the English and Pakistani sections of Kerry Packer's cricket circus sets out from Heathrow. Whatever subtleties may be prevaricated for or against the venture (and you know my views on the subject) there is no denying that the unofficial rests will be history in the making.

It may be claimed in the High Court that the spectator appeal of this form of cricket is still unknown, but how many of you will not follow the scores? And since cricket history is about to be made, you will be glad to hear that a first-class cricket historian will be there to record it.

Mr Packer has gone not only for the best players in the world, but for the best supporting cast as well. That ace scorer of the BBC team during the past seven summers, Irving Rosenzweig, will be in Australia to record each ball bowled and run scored.

And now we publish 'The Write and Vision of Harold Wilson'.



Mr Vickers chronicles the events that took place in the capital, ranging from a "Guess the Weight of the Mayor" competition to the lavish Bond Street Ball, where a piped nightingale sang, topless dancers performed, and Princess Margaret won a ship in a bottle on the tombola.

He allows his readers an intriguing glimpse from the gallery of top people by revealing that Lord Lichfield and Michael Firth, who also won her prize.

A jubilee footnote: The Illustrated London News's £1,000 prize for Britain's best decorated street has gone to Producers Street, Fulham, London. The money will buy guide dogs for two local blind people.

The souvenirs that got away

Loyal Londoners and tourists who stood for hours hoping to catch a glimpse of the Queen in jubilee year but were disappointed because so many others got there first will delight in a jubilee souvenir book just published.

We Want The Queen, by Hugo Vickers (Deborah's Bookings Ltd), is packed with pictures of the Royal Family meeting their subjects. Pictures that those who waited for so long hoped to take, but found too many heads—and sometimes umbrellas—in the way.

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On the campaigning trail again

Lord George-Brown is campaigning again and it is a refreshing sight, I am told. No sooner had he arrived in Strasbourg this week than he was taking luncheon privately with the president of the European Council, Mr Willem Drees.

After Mr Jenkins, and as part of his plan to stand as a candidate for the European Parliament when direct elections are introduced, the noble Lord lobbied Emilio Colombo, the president of the Parliament, and everyone else who shares his unabated Euro-zest.

Angrily vetted

I hope none of the animals, real or fantasy, in the furry world of Richard Adams needs the services of a vet. Mr Adams, creator of *Shardik* and *Watership Down*, has dropped a clanger in his latest book, *The Plague Dogs*, which has set the British Veterinary Association snapping at his heels.

The story concerns two dogs who escape from an experimental laboratory to roam the Lake District, killing sheep and terrifying people who believe them to be infected with bubonic plague.

One of them had undergone brain surgery at the laboratory after its owner had been persuaded to sell it, following an appeal by some

Lord of hearts—and flowers

Not long out of hospital, and in excellent heart, Lord Kenilworth leaves for Australia tomorrow to put new heart into Down Under or, at any rate, into those who may be having second thoughts about whether their bank balance makes them suitable targets for his lordship's two-week sales boosting drive.

As phleg John Siddoley, he is one of Britain's most inventive jewelry designers. His gold and silver products carry a distinctive hallmark, the initials JS inside a heart shape.

He is an adviser to David Jones, which are the nearest Australian equivalent to our House of Fraser, and his new range of jewellery is now being prominently displayed at their stores, advertised as "Special gifts for Special people."

Purchasers, too, need to be Special. A pair of 18 carat gold goblets cost £15,000 and a six-inch high floral piece, of gold and precious stones, retails between £2,000 and £4,000.

Reading sea poems (including MacNeice's *The North Sea*) at sea and Danish poems in Denmark is what the City of London Informal Poetry Group will be doing this weekend. Reunion is the name of the game. Professional people and housewives, the 20 or so members of the group will sail from Harwich for Esbjerg, to Ribes, near the capital of Viking Denmark, where they will read Danish poetry and poems about Denmark. They will return to England on Sunday, still reciting away to each other.



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TOO FAR OR NOT FAR ENOUGH

The firing out on Labour's teachers of the revolt against the Government's devolution legislation clears the path for its enactment. Obstruction or serious delay is not to be expected from the Lords when a general election casts its shadow before it. Barring a dissolution of Parliament earlier than the Prime Minister may be presumed to have in mind, the Bills should reach the statute book. And unless the Scottish or Welsh electorates spur a referendum, the Bills are being fashioned for the new Assemblies and attendant apparatus will take their place in the constitutional arrangements for the kingdom.

Seldom can the decisive debate on measures of this magnitude have exhibited such respectability. The determining argument in the debate (leaving aside party advantage, disciplinary sanctions and so on) was that in Scotland, and perhaps also in Wales, settled political sentiment now demands appreciable political autonomy within the confines of the state; that where such sentiment prevails it is the course of good government to satisfy it so far as possible; and that to frustrate the Scots, in particular, in that expectation would be to propel them towards separatism. Those MPs who are not impressed by that sequence of argument but nevertheless did not oppose the passage of the legislation could invoke the promised referendum as a further opportunity of stopping the reform by talking the Scots and Welsh out of their apparent desire for it.

If that was the determining argument it was heard against a background of misgiving about

the measures themselves. Misgivings not just about their content and its workability but also about what they portend. The Scottish Nationalists welcome the Scotland Bill as a valuable salient from which to develop their campaign for independence. As they are the specialists, so to speak, in Scottish nationalism, their view of the measure cannot be safely disregarded—unless it is to be supposed that they secretly would have preferred another parliamentary reform of their own making. To that doubt about the effect of the measure on Scotland's relations with the other elements which compose the United Kingdom, are added misgivings about its implications for the development of government throughout the kingdom.

There is a general feeling that the compromise struck in these Bills is an unstable compromise, that it will work only if it is developed, and that the development inherent in the scheme about to be enacted is development in the direction of federalism. It is very far from clear that a move to federalism is what most of those who have thought about it want, or that it is a type of constitution appropriate to the traditions and political geography of the United Kingdom. Yet it is a reasonable conclusion that the establishment of this devolutionary scheme will set up an institutional momentum towards a federation. If so, and since *c'est le premier pas qui coûte*, there is better reason than Ministers acknowledge for opening the referendum of endorsement to the whole nation.

The federal implications are

most visible where the legislation itself is most confused. It presents itself as the House of Commons can go on as before, but that the two numerous representation from Scotland (71 members) may legislate on English and Welsh matters which have been devolved for Scotland. Put in party terms that means that a Labour government might be enabled only by virtue of the larger number of its Scottish supporters to impose social legislation on England unwelcome to a majority of English MPs, or vice versa; while those same MPs would in no circumstances be permitted to arrange such matters for Scotland. The situation would not hold. It would have to be repaired either by returning to the legislative competence of Parliament (retrieving the devolutionary bone from the jaws to which it had been handed), or more likely by moving towards a federal symmetry.

Similarly with finance. An administration of the range and political motivation of the proposed Scottish executive, which yet has no responsibility for raising its own revenue, is invited to blame every defect and answer every criticism by reference to its Westminster—prelaminated friction. That can only be remedied by putting at its disposal substantial resources from which to raise revenue: not just the marginal "supplementary" taxes examined and disfavoured by the Government in preparing its legislation. But the apportionment of major sources of revenue between central and regional administrations is hard to envisage on any but a country-wide basis. That too points towards federation.

NEXT YEAR'S PRICE OF OIL

Preliminary soundings of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' ministerial meeting, due to start at Caracas on December 20, are now well advanced. It is there that the Opec cartel will decide on the oil price rise for 1978. Western diplomacy, led by the United States, has won a significant concession, when the Shah of Iran indicated this week in Washington that his country would not be pressing for an immediate or substantial price increase in Venezuela.

Opec's member countries have an obvious interest in preserving the maximum appearance of unity in the coming weeks. Their whole political and financial influence depends on it. There is a clear willingness to compromise in order to avoid another major split in the ranks, which last time led to the two-tier structure of prices in the international oil market.

The Shah's motives for such

restraint are obvious enough. The Iranian development programme and arms budget require ever increasing oil revenues. A split in Opec led by Iran could easily produce a situation in which, faced by Saudi Arabian pressure to contain a price increase, such revenues could fall. Equally, in the field of arms and nuclear technology, Iranian development plans are largely dependent on American goodwill. The present Iranian position, therefore, that it will be a passive "observer" at Caracas makes obvious sense.

It should not, however, be assumed that this means that there will be a total price freeze for the whole of 1978. It would require a very strong and successful stand by the Saudi Arabians to achieve that result. It is more likely that there will be a moderate increase for the year of well under 10 per cent; perhaps coming in two stages, even perhaps with a freeze for the first six months of the year.

Such restraint would be obviously welcome for the industrial world, still struggling to get out of the present phase of economic stagnation. Any more substantial increase would threaten to plunge the world back into full recession and at the same time increase inflationary pressures. The danger for the West is that the response will be taken as an excuse for continued failure to develop energy conservation policies to match the global energy crisis that faces us. The most serious culprit in this respect remains the United States, if only because of the dominant position it occupies in the world's energy economy. No energy programme for the United States can begin to face the magnitude of the impending energy gap, so long as domestic policies continue artificially to hold down by regulation the price of a scarce and expensive resource, thus encouraging higher consumption.

THE BIRDS ARE NOT ONLY FLOWN, BUT SINGING

Without being obliged to give so much as a reason for his action, the Home Secretary has power to forbid any foreigner to enter Britain or remain here. Such a decision over the case of an individual should be used only seldom, when major issues of public policy require it. As a general rule, its use should also be avoided if its only effect is to make the Home Secretary and his discretion look foolish. An object lesson in how not to do it was provided yesterday by Mr. Merlyn Rees in the affair of the former SS officers.

Before they ever arrived here, Mr. Rees had his eye on them. Two of the three were nabbed on arrival and served with notices requiring them to leave (the third was only spotted on his way home). Mr. Rees rightly went beyond his obligations under the Immigration Act and made his reasons public: it was against public policy, he said, for ex-members of the SS to promote the publicity and sale of a certain book attempting to vindicate its wartime record. One of the three, Herr Meyer, was then released from detention, since his banning order only said that he should be gone by midnight, like Cinderella, and the Home Secretary was in some doubt whether he had the power to detain an EEC citizen. Naturally Meyer went off and held a press conference to pro-

mote the publicity and sale of the book.

Mr. Rees was probably right to decide not to allow the men in. It is only in very serious cases that entry should be denied at a minister's discretion. Even when there is reason to expect the entrant to break the law it is often better to keep an eye on him but not judge him in advance. The power should be used with particular care when, as in this case, people are banned because they or their opinions are unpopular. There would be precious few foreign businessmen allowed into Britain if the possibility of violent demonstrations against them was held to rule them out.

In politics it is sometimes necessary to swallow one's distaste when greeting a Ponomarev or a Shelepin. The personal histories of the three German ex-officers may be blameless by comparison, but the purpose of their visit made it right to apply different standards. The name of the SS is rightly odious to most Britons with memories of the war, and especially to relatives and co-religionists of the minority groups who suffered under its oppression. The book does not appear to make a serious attempt to rebut the overwhelming evidence that the SS was involved in brutalities wholly unjustified even by the harsh rules of war.

It simply passes over them and bathes the Waffen SS in rather beery glorification. The book, in any case, is not being suppressed. But the full publicity treatment, with television interview and press conference, will seem grossly offensive to most people in Britain. An effective ban would also have demonstrated to the small minority of Germans who are returning to the history of the SS today in a spirit of political as well as nostalgic that genocide never acquires the golden haze that tends to settle on ancient clashes of arms.

But a ban that gives its victim grace to fulfil the engagements that it set out to prevent makes nonsense of itself. Whatever offence was anticipated, it has been given; if breaches of public order were feared, an opportunity was created for them to happen. If it was right to issue a banning order, it would have been right to haul all the men in detention until they could be put on an aeroplane. All that has been achieved is an extra dose of publicity for the book. Illegal Commonwealth immigrants would not be allowed to wander round London on their word of honour until their flight was called. Until the Home Secretary has the confidence to restrain a banned EEC citizen, the banning power—a necessary one in some instances—will sometimes be worthless.

A Crusader's tomb

From Mrs. Alice Rushbrooke

Sir, On February 2, 1926 you published an article by the late Sir Ronald Scott concerning the history and restoration of the tomb of Sir Philip d'Aubigné in the Pervis of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

Philip d'Aubigné was tutor to Henry III and Governor of the Channel Islands; he joined one of the expeditions in support of the Fifth Crusade and reached Jerusalem in 1222. He died there in 1226 and according to the medieval historian Matthew Paris, "was buried in holy ground, which, living he had long desired". The tomb was discovered in 1867 before the main door of the Church when a stone house was removed which had been used for centuries by the

authorities to levy tax from the Christians; since 1958 when the present work of restoration was commenced it has been covered for protection by thick wooden planks.

As a direct descendant of my mother's side, of Sir Philip's brother Ralph, I have on a number of occasions attempted to see the tombstone but until last month was unsuccessful in persuading the authorities to allow me to do this. On this occasion, however, through the interest and kind offices of the Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Teddy Kollek, and the Guardian of the Holy Sepulchre, Archimandrite Daniel of the Greek Orthodox Church, together with his Armenian and Catholic fellow administrators, the stone was uncovered for me on October 29.

I am happy to say it appears to be in good condition and the care-

fully carved thirteenth century Latin inscription BEC IACET PHILIPUS DE AUBIGNI CHIES ANIMA REQUISCAT IN PACE AMEN (Here lies Philip d'Aubigné, may whose soul rest in peace, Amen) and the Daubigny coat of arms, four lions in fess, are clearly legible.

Of necessity while the restoration work continues the stone has been recovered, but I am sure that on completion this Crusader's grave, the only one known and marked out of the countless graves of the eight Crusades, will once more be uncovered to be seen again by all those who visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Yours faithfully,
ALICE RUSHBROOKE,
10 Thurston Road,
Wimbledon, SW19
November 9.

Criticisms of 'Le Monde'

From the Editor of Le Monde

Sir, On October 15 The Times published an astonishing leader on *Le Monde*. In any other publication it would have indeed seemed preposterous and totally irrelevant. But it is deeply disturbing in a highly reputed newspaper with which *Le Monde* has had a close working relationship for years.

The leader was based on an article that appeared in the German edition of the European Economic Community's magazine. The article, under the byline of Alfred Fisch, makes out that *Le Monde's* editorial staff consists of "passive writers, political agitators and a hard core of extremists and Communists". That its editor in chief "sees his course according to the progress of the current" and that "cynical nihilism" are "largely responsible for the newspaper's image".

If this is so, then it is surprising that *The Times* should have taken the initiative to propose to a team having so little to commend it the agreement which was to lead to the creation of our common supplement, *Europe*. But you know perfectly well that the byline of Alfred Fisch, a notorious right-wing extremist, is a gratuitous attack and an out and out libel. Besides, the EEC Commission was quick to repudiate the author of the magazine which reproduced the allegations and to apologise to *Le Monde*.

The questions submitted to the European Assembly by three of its members surprised by the publication of the article will probably afford it an opportunity to renege on its promise to investigate how you could have in your leader, in the first place, compared "allegations" whose "wildness" must seem clear to you with a "Tribune Libre" in *Le Monde*, and generally, how you could have found fault with our Brussels correspondent's action in protesting to the Commission over Herr Fisch's article. Finally, I beg your readers to imagine what would have happened had one of the other newspapers in the *Europe* venture treated *The Times* with such offensiveness. Would you not have expected an apology at the time?

Yours sincerely,
JACQUES FAUVET,
5 Rue Des Italiens,
Paris,
November 9.

Use of equipment at fire stations

From Mr. Gordon Bradshaw

Sir, Will someone in authority be good enough to come down from Mount Olympus and answer the following question?

Why is it that our young soldiers have to put their health and safety in hazard (and, by extension, the lives of fire victims), by having to fight appalling fires without the assistance of breathing apparatus, when everyone knows that such apparatus is part of the equipment held at fire stations?

If the answer is that the Government will not authorize the release of the apparatus for fear of offending the trade unions because of some rubbish about not crossing picket lines, surely this is the most devastating indictment of a political movement and its ethics there has ever been.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON BRADSHAW,
Fairways,
Laburnum Avenue,
Lytham,
Lancashire,
November 16.

From Mrs. Michael Nokes

Sir, We should be careful about calling upon the Christian communities of the firemen, and should do so only after we have, as the community which employs them, examined our own. The amount of money paid to the firemen is a direct result of their unwillingness for so long to demonstrate a bargaining position. Relying on these communities and ignoring the calls that should be made on our own, we have turned away their just claims for far too long.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN NOKES,
146 Hamilton Terrace,
St John's Wood, NW8.

Mapping buried history

From the Director-General of the National Trust

Sir, Your leader of November 12 and letters from Professor Thomas (November 13), Professor Cusick (November 13) and others have drawn attention to the decision to disband the Ordnance Survey's specialized archaeological section.

The National Trust has learnt of this with dismay. It has in its care an immense number of antiquities and it needs to know what it owns if it is to preserve them adequately for the nation. To compile this information, the staff of the Trust have for a number of years made very extensive use of the information accumulated by the recording section and the field investigations of the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey, and kept in their library in Southampton. Thanks to these records, good progress has been made with the preparation of hand lists of all that the Trust owns of archaeological interest; moreover, the right management of the Trust's properties for permanent preservation depends on this specialized knowledge being available to guide us.

The hand lists have still to be completed. They will need revision from time to time to incorporate new information which might have bearing on how a property is best looked after. The Trust does not know of any satisfactory substitute for the specialized work of the field investigators, complemented by the recording staff.

We have a high regard for the quality of their work and for its value to the practical management of antiquities. The changes now proposed seem certain to disrupt the programme of classification, description and interpretation of archaeological sites and to reduce the usefulness of the archaeological library maintained by the Ordnance Survey. May I urge that the decision is reconsidered?

Yours faithfully,
J. D. BOLES, Director-General,
The National Trust,
42 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
November 15.

Returfishing the SS image

From Mr. John Johnston

Sir, By coincidence you report in separate parts of today's paper (November 16) on two men who combined, 33 years ago, to produce one of the rarest acts of mercy in the last war.

Dr. Graeme Warrack was the medical officer at Arnhem who pleaded with the Germans for a cease-fire to enable more than a thousand wounded British soldiers to be handed over to the enemy for treatment in their hospitals.

Oversturnbamfilter, Walter Harzer was the SS officer who ensured that this was carried out.

He is one of the three SS officers who want to come to Britain to promote a book about their organization.

While deprecating his current mission, I feel the Prime Minister should know that there are quite a few veterans of that battle who have reason to feel grateful to Colonel Harzer.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN JOHNSTON,
76 Camden Hill Road, W8,
November 16.

Uffington White Horse

From Mr. David Astor

Sir, As at present I hold the land on which the prehistoric Uffington White Horse and Castle stand, may I reply to the recent letter (November 4) from Henry Wood about the horse?

For some time, I have wished to make over these monuments to the National Trust and to negotiate suitable arrangements for future car parking with the local authority. With their cooperation, I feel confident that the monuments can be protected. It would also be possible to enhance the setting in which they stand. Larger areas of downland surrounding them could be laid down to permanent grass and be made available to the public.

The principal cause of the damage has been that the growing numbers of people visiting this hill for holiday and recreational purposes are at present confined in a small space. With this in mind, my advisers have evolved a plan for opening it all up. The hope is to enable visitors to disperse over a larger area and, in particular, to deal with the car problem.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ASTOR,
9 Cavendish Avenue, NW8,
November 16.

BBC wavelength changes

From Mr. A. Sandman

Sir, Long Wave reception is technically more difficult than Medium Wave.

Many older sets, powered by the mains, will not receive correctly adjusted on Medium Wave, are very susceptible to interference on Long Wave.

Quite a number of pensioners, unable to replace their equipment with a new set, are not going to be able to receive Radio 4 properly any more.

Yours faithfully,
A. SANDMAN,
57 Primrose Hill Court,
King's Cross Road, NW5,
November 13.

Admiral Pound's health

From Captain John Litchfield, RN

Sir, The disparaging references to Admiral of the Fleet Sir Dudley Pound, OM, in your defence correspondent's review of Captain Stephen King's study of Churchill and the Admiralty (November 10) ought not to pass unchallenged. The description of Admiral Pound as a "sick, worn-out figure" who was "not strong enough to cope with Churchill's power" and "gives an entirely false impression of his condition and character and relationship with Churchill" and the reference to Churchill's "determination to select a First Sea Lord who could be manipulated" if it implies that Pound was Churchill's choice, is very misleading. Pound was appointed First Sea Lord three months before Churchill became First Lord, and Churchill's approval of Sir Andrew Cunningham as Pound's successor four years later hardly suggests that he wanted a yes-man in the Admiralty.

The evidence of those who knew Pound—not only that of the "private secretaries and personal assistants" whose reports Captain Rockill discusses—also all but unanimously the other way in regard to both his state of health and his character. Pound's momentary collapse when he was tired and his habit of closing his eyes when in thought were well known more than 20 years before his death, and his enjoyment of a hard day's swimming whenever the opportunity offered during the war, as well as his continued relaxation in driving himself in his fast car, do not support the view that he was a "sick, worn-out figure". Nor, it may be thought, would Churchill have been likely to retain for four years of war as his right-hand adviser in charge of the Navy a

Two-part pay policy

From Mr. Leo Russell

Sir, The Government's courage in rigidly adhering to its 10 per cent pay limit and refusing to allow any "special cases" is magnificent but does it really make sense to continue to ignore the widespread and very human desire for pay differentials to reflect varying degrees of skill, experience, responsibility, danger and effort?

The present policy of a standard percentage increase applied to all is not logical, and I think, generally accepted as fair, if it had been applied initially by the Heath Government in 1973 and again in subsequent years. Instead, we have had a standard percentage applied to all, and the standard percentage now merely has the effect of perpetuating the differences which are felt by even the most reasonable of those concerned to be unduly unjust.

The standard percentage system will only be accepted as fair if it starts, broadly speaking, from a position of fairness. This is not now the case.

The present policy may succeed in holding the flood-gates for a time but the problem of differentials will remain and sooner or later it must be solved. The longer it is left the more difficult it will become.

It is to be hoped therefore that any future pay policy will be in two parts, comprising first a percentage figure for general application to compensate for inflation and, secondly, a separate percentage figure to be used exclusively towards the progressive restoration of previously established relationships and differentials. Experience has shown that the second objective has little chance of being achieved within a single percentage figure, which inevitably becomes the norm. Without some such policy there will be continuing and bitter strife.

Yours faithfully,
LEO RUSSELL,
Flat 2,
17 New Square, SW7,
November 17.

Berlin museum stamps

From Mr. Robson Lowe

Sir, Having read Mr. David Binder's report on the front page of Saturday's issue (November 12), as one of the parties concerned in the matter, I feel I would prefer to make my own statement.

The retired man, Mr. D. S., who tried to sell the stamps in question at the international stamp exhibition held in Philadelphia in June 1976, offered them to a collector of mine in my presence for 500,000 dollars. I had been asked to attend the meeting and express my opinion on the genuineness of otherwise of the stamps. The stamps were sealed in a frame and even so, one could say with fair certainty that the stamps were genuine but heavily repaired. They must be the world's worst copies of these rarities.

In reply to a question I expressed my views on the stamps, gave my opinion that in this connection they were not worth 500,000 dollars and before they could be sold, that a satisfactory title must be proved.

At no time did I approach the owner with an offer of 500,000 dollars. My view was that if anyone would pay such a price such fragments should be used for their head examined. If this statement of mine can be interpreted by an American as an offer of 500,000 dollars, then we do not speak the same language.

On my return to London, I looked up the pedigree of these stamps as described by L. N. and M. Williams in their invaluable volume *Stamps of Fame* and found they all belonged to the Berlin Museum. After discussing this interesting discovery on the telephone with Mr. Norman Williams, I telephoned the Philadelphia Press Squad at Scotland Yard.

Yours faithfully,
ROBSON LOWE,
50 Pall Mall, SW1.

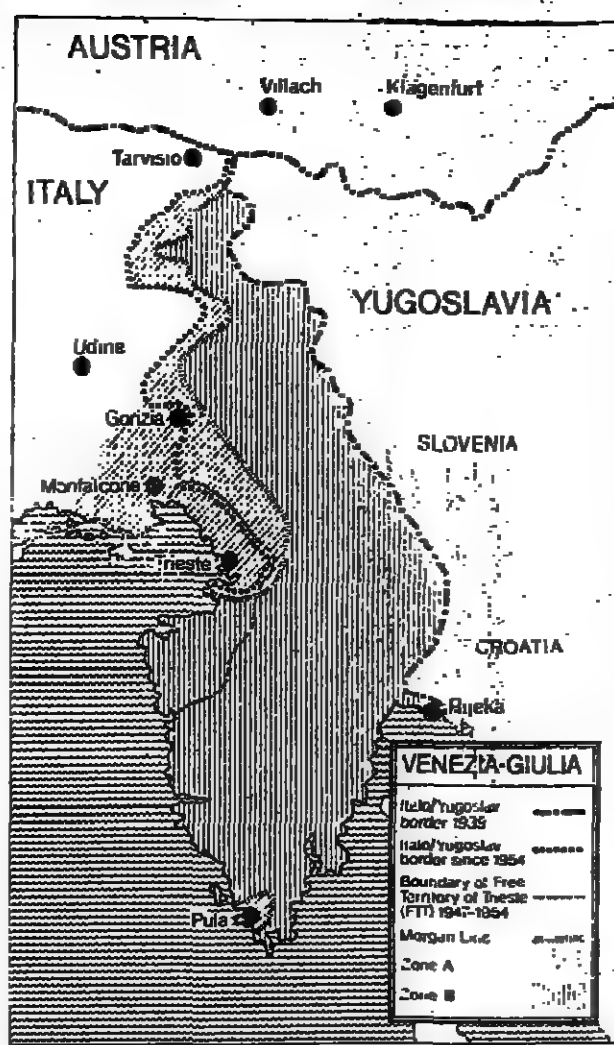
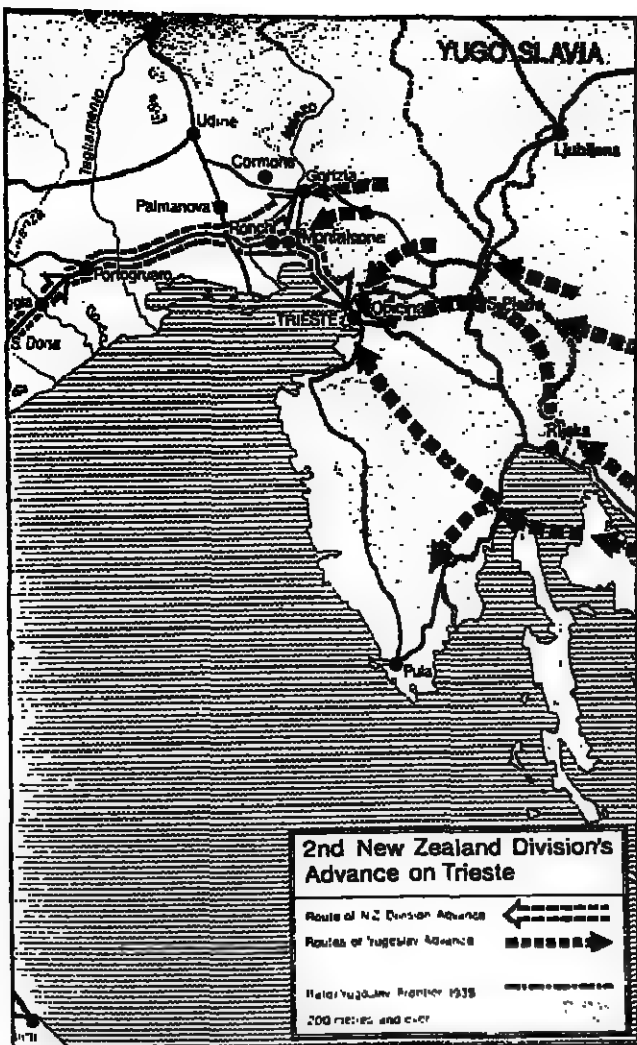
Britain's exports

From Sir Frederick Catherwood

Sir, Mr. David Wood reports today (November 7) that "North Sea oil flows in increasing abundance" but that, among other things, "poor export performance spoils the picture".

If he cares to consult your Economic Correspondent he will find that exports have had an excellent year, rising in stagnant world markets by 13.7 per cent in volume in the past quarter, and that Britain's trade would still be in balance without the year's improvement in oil revenue.

Yours faithfully,
F. CATHERWOOD,
British Overseas Trade Board,
1 Victoria Street, SW1.



The brink of the Cold War

One event in postwar history which has attracted surprisingly little attention from the historians has been the confrontation between the Western Allies and the Yugoslavs in Trieste in May and June 1945. The true dimensions became apparent only when the War Cabinet papers for the period were made available under the Thirty Years rule.

Sir Geoffrey Cox, who experienced the crisis on the spot as Intelligence Officer to the New Zealand Commander General Freyberg VC, has now drawn on those papers to tell the full story of this confrontation in *The Race for Trieste*. In this extract he describes the final and decisive phase of the crisis.

At each crossroads on each bridge the local Partisans and the Yugoslav troops stood in irritated silence alongside the British and American sentries. On the great cornice road which is cut into the rock above the sea between Monfalcone and Trieste, our supply trucks wound in and out of the columns of marching Tito troops, some of them Montenegrins with faces as dark as Moors. In the fields, on all the strangely important hills and slopes our troops and the

Yugoslavs found themselves side by side.

I drove from Miramare into Trieste. In front of Brigadier Gandy's headquarters stood two New Zealand sentries, their bayonets fixed, their posture slack and yet alert. At the corner two Sherman tanks stood facing a Yugoslav Stuart tank. Opposite, some sort of Tito headquarters had been set up in a house which proclaimed itself to be, inappropriately enough, the "Bar Nationale".

On the pavement outside a Yugoslav platoon was parading. Outside the hotel door a few civilians were gathered. One or two were white-faced, with red-rimmed eyes, and they gazed towards the doorway as if it led to the promised land. Others were just part of a normal, untroubled Saturday afternoon crowd. The front of the hotel was marked with fresh bullet holes where the Yugoslavs had fired when a crowd had demonstrated for Italy the day before. By the water-side I could see our patrols and the Yugoslav patrol slowly up, each watching the other cautiously, cautiously. It must have been as wearying to their nerves as to ours.

Marshal Tito's reply to the British and American notes demanding his withdrawal came on Friday, May 18, one week after Truman's conference in the White House. It was a forthright "No". Tito refused to accede in any way to the Allied demands. The resolute Mr. Stevenson in Belgrade did not delay either his response to the Yugoslavs, or his advice to London. "When the Yugo-

slav Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs handed me Marshal Tito's note," he reported to the Foreign Office. "I told him it seemed to me merely a repetition of what I had already rejected. He confirmed this was so. I left him in no doubt that I considered Tito's reply highly unsatisfactory. I told him bluntly that His Majesty's Government and the United States Government had taken their stand on a matter of principle on which they could not and would not yield. He had nothing further to say and he was obviously acutely nervous and unhappy."

In these circumstances, the Ambassador recommended "our reply to be swift and decisive". Tito should be told that unless he was prepared to accept in full within a given time limit the Allied proposals, Field Marshal Alexander should be instructed to occupy in force the whole region up to the Morgan, as the minimum Anglo-American demand.

In London the Prime Minister was quick to urge such action on to the Americans. He was helped by two further messages from Alexander. In one the Field Marshal revised his estimate of the morale of his troops. He had earlier argued that "both the United States and British troops would be very reluctant to engage at this stage of the war in a fresh conflict against Yugoslavia". Now he asserted that their feeling against the Yugoslavs was "strong, and is getting stronger daily". In the other message he said he was no longer prepared to accept—as he had been earlier—that the Yugoslav administration in Trieste might continue to function.

The Prime Minister stressed that he did not envisage war with the Yugoslavs, but that immediate action was necessary "otherwise we shall merely appear to have been bluffing and will in fact be bluffed out". He reminded the President that Alexander had pointed out that if Tito refused either to put his troops and administration under Alexander's command, or refused to withdraw from the area, "it will inevitably lead to armed conflict, since I must very soon insist on the proper functioning of my AMG. For example, I must remove Tito's proclamations and replace them with my own. I cannot allow my movements to be restricted by Yugoslav posts or sentries."

The Prime Minister went on to argue that in these circumstances the line the President had drawn as to when American troops could or could not be used was too rigid. President Truman was not going to be hauled by his allies any more than he had been derided by the critics in Washington of his decision on May 11. He still saw no reason why the conflict should decline into a shooting war. One key figure in this conflict had not yet shown his hand—Joseph Stalin. The Soviet leader had been kept fully informed of the British and American notes to Tito, but he had not responded. But equally he had not given any overt sign of his support for Tito.

Truman therefore decided that we might still get our way if pressure was intensified on the Yugoslav leader, though we should still move with caution. The President had used the intervening days, while Tito considered the first message, to ensure that this display of force would be massive and convincing. He began, with some reluctance, to flex the formidable muscles of a fully mobilised United States.

I asked General Eisenhower if he could send three divisions to the Brenner Pass, or above Trieste. I asked Admiral King whether he could send some units of the Mediterranean Fleet to the Adriatic, and how long it would take to get them there.

I told him to alert the necessary ships. I asked General Arnold what air squadrons he could move, and I asked him to alert them. The response of the commanders was indeed dramatic. Eisenhower reported that he was prepared to dispatch several divisions to the Brenner Pass and if necessary into Italy. Admiral King reported that units of the Mediterranean Fleet had been alerted to steam into the Adriatic. General Arnold had several air force squadrons ready to move at a moment's notice. An area around Rimini was designated as an operational base. It was then, as now, the main holiday area for the industrial north and had many hotels which could be used as barracks and hospitals. In Rimini itself and in the surrounding countryside, 25,000 Italian civilians were notified that they must evacuate their homes to make way for the incoming reinforcements. On May 19 a British naval force arrived at Trieste, through a channel which had by then been swept through the minefields. The American infantry battalion stationed in Trieste was re-grouped with its parent formation near Gorizia in readiness for battle. In Belgrade, British and American citizens were warned to be ready to leave and the Embassy staffs of both countries prepared for evacuation.

These military operations were, even in normal circumstances, likely to attract the attention of the Soviet observers and Soviet agents. Made very and Soviet agents. To this array of hard facts Field Marshal Alexander now added some hard words. On May 19 he issued an Order of the Day to the troops under his command intended in part to prepare them for possible battles ahead, in part as a blow in the war of nerves with Yugoslavia.

Our policy, publicly proclaimed, is that territorial changes should be made only after thorough study and after full consultation and deliberation between the various governments concerned.

It is however Marshal Tito's apparent intention to establish his claims in Venezia Giulia and territory around Trieste and to assert by force of arms and by military occupation. Action of this kind would be all too reminiscent of Hitler, Mussolini and Japan. It is to prevent such actions that we have been fighting this war. It is our duty to hold these territories as trustees until their ultimate disposal is settled at the Peace Conference.

This pressure President Truman now supported by a personal cable to Stalin. On Sunday, May 20, he told the Soviet leader that Tito's reply had been entirely unsatisfactory, and that the Americans could not accept any compromise upon the principles of an order and just settlement, and "are so informing Tito". He gave a long detailed argument of the American case, one which the Russian leader could take on two levels. It was both a plea for his intervention against Tito, and a detailed justification, in advance, of any military actions on which the Western Allies might embark. Churchill sent a similar message to Stalin.

This powerful pressure worked. Milovan Djilas, then one of Tito's closest associates, makes plain in his latest book (*War and Peace*, Dutton, 1975) that the decisive factor was the refusal of the Soviet Union to support the Yugoslavs. The Allies threw us out of Trieste and its environs after the Soviet Central Committee informed us that, after such a terrible war, the USSR could not embark upon another. On May 20, the day after Alexander had issued his proclamation to the troops, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Edvard Kardelj, called the British Ambassador to the Foreign Ministry in Belgrade, and announced that the Yugoslavs would make a major move towards acceptance of the Western demands. They were prepared to agree to Field Marshal Alexander having control of the region up to the Morgan Line, provided that the Yugoslav military representatives could participate in any Allied Military Government we would establish, and provided this AMG worked through the civil authorities, which the Yugoslavs had already set up.

At the same time Tito issued a pointed rebuttal of the charges in Alexander's message. The Yugoslav leader said: "I cannot but express my resentment and surprise at the impossible comparison that the presence of Yugoslav troops in Istria and the Slovene Littoral is similar to Hitler's, Mussolini's and Japanese methods of conquest. Such an accusation can be thrown in the face of an enemy. It cannot be thrown at a tortured ally who has been blind while and who has until now been recognized by all freedom-loving people as an example of heroism and self-sacrifice in this great war of liberation. The Yugoslav Army expelled the enemy by the might of their arms from the area up to the River Soca (the Isonzo) and beyond, and no character of conquest can be attributed to its presence in this territory."

Field Marshal Alexander's determination to have the matter settled once and for all, along the lines he wished, was almost certainly strengthened by the complete success of an astute military move he had carried out within Venezia Giulia.

He had instructed the Allied forces in the area to move forward at a number of key points so as to improve their tactical positions, occupying commanding heights in some places, key crossroads in others, better lines of communication in yet others.

"It was a plan not without its dangers. It could have proved many a costly and even fatal accident," could indeed have led to the Yugoslavs taking the significant step of firing first. General Mark Clark, Commander of the Allied Fifteenth Army Group, was responsible to Alexander for both Venezia Giulia and Southern Austria, decided in particular that a powerful force of American Infantry and tanks should move through Gorizia and take up the higher and defensible ground to the east, regardless of the fact that this ground was already held by Yugoslav troops.

General Clark, never a man to shun the limelight, went forward himself with the foremost column. He has given his own account of what happened (*Calculated Risk*, Mark Clark, Harp). The order for the advance was given, and a short time later I drove a jeep along the road followed by the main column in order to see how things were going. Approaching Gorizia, the road led under a railway bridge, and there the Yugoslavs had set up a road block. Our column had halted short of the bridge, waiting for the time set for all the columns to make their advance simultaneously.

"When do you advance?" I asked the column commander, as my jeep pulled up beside him. "Right now, sir."

"All right, come along," I said and motioned my driver to proceed under the bridge, where there was a gap in the road block wide enough to allow one vehicle to pass. We buzzed past the Yugoslav guards, and the column followed us with no difficulty, although I must admit that I held my breath for several minutes for fear that some reckless guard might fire a shot. Everyone else felt the same way: nobody wanted to be the first to enter the last killed in the Second World War.

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Surge in private bank loans sharpens threat to money target

By John Whitmore

An unexpected surge in bank lending to the private sector in the banking month to mid-October has added a new dimension to the monetary authorities' potential problem in bringing the rate of growth in the money supply back beneath the 13 per cent ceiling envisaged for the financial year to next April.

As had been widely predicted, the growth in sterling M3, the broad-based definition of the money supply, is running above target after the first six months of the financial year.

With a 1.8 per cent increase to £42,890m (seasonally adjusted) in the four weeks to October 13, sterling M3 has grown in the first half of the year at an annualized rate of 14.2 per cent.

If the Government is to meet its full year target growth of 13 per cent, or £42,200m, it must now restrict growth in the remaining six months to 5.8 per cent, an annualized rate of 11.8 per cent.

While the Government can expect to receive considerable help in this from its decision at the end of October to stop pumping money into the system through the foreign exchange markets—this was done to hold down the value of sterling—it now seems it could be faced with unexpected problems from another major component of monetary growth, bank lending to the private sector.

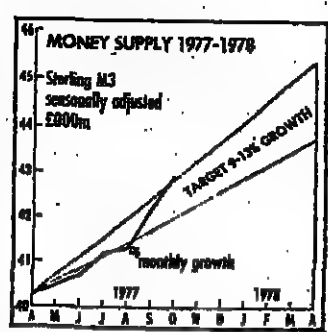
Whereas this had been growing at an average of just under £350m a month in the first five months of the year, growth suddenly shot up to nearly £600m in October.

It may be that this is exceptional and, perhaps, partly compensatory for the below average growth the previous month. Even so, it is cause of some concern, the more so since nobody appears too sure as to why it has happened.

The banks themselves have consistently reported lending to be flat, yet the figures themselves show that private borrowing from the banking sector has been running at an annualized rate of some £4,500m in the first six months of the year.

Where the latest month's figures shown by next month's figures) to be the start of a new trend towards significantly higher private sector loan demand, the authorities could find themselves faced with a considerable dilemma.

Although they would be most reluctant to take any quantitative measures to curb a



recovery in loan demand just at a time when the Government wishes to stimulate the economy, they could well find that some action is required if growth ceiling is to be met.

Were action required, it could either come in the form of the reimposition of the banking system "corset" which limited deposit growth and, therefore, the ability to lend, or through higher interest rates, which might take time to make an impact and conceivably put upward pressure on inflation.

On the other side of the coin there is a growing suspicion that in spite of the October stimulus to the economy, the public sector contribution to monetary growth is still going to be substantial.

Even if that is the case, however, the authorities could find it more difficult to neutralize the public sector contribution to monetary growth through the sale of public sector debt. The gilt market has been showing signs of weakness since the start of the year and yesterday's offer of £600m Treasury 30 per cent 1992 was left high and dry.

Peter Norman writes from Bonn: The Federal Reserve Bank's latest monthly report, it is argued, shows that the growth of central bank money, stock would have been inappropriate, given the sluggishness of the German economy.

The Federal Reserve report also shows that the money stock grew at an annual rate of 11.5 per cent between May and October. This more generous dosage of liquidity concerned those who feared that the recovery in West Germany might be restricted by monetary policy.

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Controls by Tokyo to hold down the yen

By Caroline Atkinson

Emergency controls aimed at holding down the value of the yen were announced yesterday by the Bank of Japan. Money flooding into Japan this year has pushed the yen up by 20 per cent against the dollar, with a rise of more than 8 per cent in the past seven weeks.

This week the Japanese authorities decided to try to hold the yen at the level of 245 to the dollar as concerns the effects on the economy of the large appreciation.

The market's first reaction was to buy back dollars and get rid of long yen positions. The Japanese currency dropped to 248 yen in about half an hour of hectic trading. The dollar also rebounded against European currencies, touching 2.25 Deutsche marks at one point.

By the afternoon, however, most dealers had decided that the measures would not be able to hold the yen down for long. It came back to close at 245.40 to the dollar, down only 25 points from Wednesday's close.

Inward exchange controls are very difficult to maintain. The Swiss, for example, imposed some inward capital controls which were effective for less than a week.

Official intervention in the market was not sufficient to prevent the yen rising to 243 against the dollar yesterday, against the target of 245.40. Inward exchange controls were therefore announced last night which will become effective next week.

The sale of short-term government securities to foreigners is to be suspended from Monday (although as this week's tender has already taken place there will not be an opportunity for foreigners to buy new stock tomorrow).

A reserve requirement of 50 per cent on increases in non-resident bank deposits will be effective from next Tuesday. This will make it less attractive for foreigners to hold yen as Japanese banks will have to deposit 50 per cent of new money with the central bank.

The close cooperation between banks and the authorities means the Japanese may be able to prevent currency inflows for longer than they, but some dealers were still expecting to see a yen rate of 220 to 230 by the end of the year.

It is not yet known whether the Japanese monetary authorities will object to the move to hold down the yen. There is a widespread feeling that a further appreciation now would not help to shrink Japan's huge trade surplus.

However, this is because there have not been government measures to stimulate domestic demand in order to take up the slack from reduced export growth and encourage imports. A currency appreciation tends to reduce output and employment through its dampening effect on export growth.

Sterling fell back against the dollar at first yesterday, but later recovered to \$1.8195, a 20 point gain on the day, with an unchanged effective index rate of 63.7.

Richest people in Britain continuing to lose share of wealth, Royal Commission reports

By Melvyn Westlake

The richest people in Britain have continued to see a relative decline in their share of total wealth. Income is spread more equally than in several other major countries, and the combined effects of progressive taxation and benefits have succeeded in bringing about greater equality.

These are among the main conclusions of a new report from the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth, published yesterday. It is the third report on the standing reference since the nine-man commission, under the chairmanship of Lord Diamond, a former Labour minister, was established in the summer of 1974.

Although analysing the ownership and spread of income and wealth in detached and measured terms, the 314-page report contains a mass of new information about the structure of contemporary British society, which, by its nature, is of highly political significance, with considerable future policy implications.

The report both updates statistics used in earlier reports and presents the results of research projects undertaken by the commission.

It shows that the long-run downward trend in the share of personal wealth owned by the top 1 per cent continued in 1975, their share being reduced from 25

per cent to 24.3 per cent. The share of the bottom 80 per cent increased from 21.9 per cent to 23.8 per cent.

These figures are arrived at after adjustment to include some wealth holdings of people not covered by Inland Revenue figures, and also to allow for under-estimates because of other exclusions.

On the basis of the unadjusted Inland Revenue estimates, the long-term movement towards equality appears to have accelerated in 1975.

The picture for income is similar to that for wealth, with the share of the top 1 per cent of the population declining continuously between 1959 and 1974-75, from 8.4 per cent to 6.2 per cent (pre-tax). The top 10 per cent income earners also saw a relative decline. Those groups that tended to be chief beneficiaries were in the income bands immediately below the top 10 per cent.

Lord Diamond said at a press conference yesterday that although inflation and incomes policies had inevitably been an influence on the distribution pattern of income, these influences were only ripples in the long-term trends which the commission had observed. Larger social forces were behind the trend to greater equality in many countries.

The commission report shows that the incidence of tax and benefits was an important factor in increasing income equality. In 1975, the share of the bottom

20 per cent in the household distribution of incomes rose from 1.3 per cent of total original income, to 7.2 per cent of all final income.

The report also shows that there is less inequality in the distribution of pre-tax household income in the United Kingdom than in the United States, Germany, France and the Republic of Ireland—but more inequality than in Australia.

Britain is compared in different ways with eight other countries (Australia, Canada, France, West Germany, Ireland, Japan, Sweden and the United States) but because of the different national definitions used it is not easy to compare them all together on the same basis.

In a number of countries income from employment amounted to 70 per cent or more of total personal income in 1974. In Britain and America it had already reached that level in 1960. In France, Germany, Ireland and Japan it was less than 70 per cent in 1974.

The proportion of personal income paid in direct taxes and social security contributions (including employers' contributions) for Britain was close to the average.

Analysis of households with economically active heads show that the average income of owner-occupiers with mortgages exceeds that of those whose homes are owned outright, and they in turn have higher average incomes than local authority tenants.

Inscrutable look about the offer for Glenlivet

To judge by yesterday's stock market reaction, the City is expecting Seagram's bid for Glenlivet to spark off nothing short of a wholesale rationalization of the Scotch whisky industry.

Not only did Glenlivet's own share price soar 20p above the 440p a share bid price—at one stage it was 50p ahead—but it was followed up by all the other small distillers' shares. Tomatin rose 6p to 83p, Highland Distillers was 5p up at 107p, Bell's 6p higher at 360p, and Invergordon 3p.

The speculation is centring particularly on what action will now be taken by Suntory, Japan's leading distiller and a holder of 11 per cent of Glenlivet's equity.

Suntory itself was suitably inscrutable. It refused to rule out the possibility of making a bid for Glenlivet and in the meantime said it was making no move. But Glenlivet's shares were evidently being buoyed up by the hope that Suntory would bid, although others in the market are simply betting that Seagram will have to bid higher to get control.

Glenlivet's own board is for the moment reserving judgment.

The real debate, though, is focusing on Suntory's position in the event of Seagram winning all the whisky distillers. Glenlivet has perhaps the highest reputation among connoisseurs, and Suntory buys part of its whisky in bulk to produce its own blends.

The first question is whether Seagram would want to discontinue this arrangement. Unlike Distillers Company, Seagram does not have any policy objections to shipping in bulk, and it is not Glenlivet's intention to make good a capacity shortage. It is believed to have spare capacity at its existing distilleries. Seagram is primarily interested in Glenlivet as an addition at the top end of its range. So there is no obvious reason for a short-term breach with Suntory.

Longer term, however, analysts believed that Suntory's position would be vulnerable to a cur in supply if Seagram puts its marketing might behind Glenlivet's brands, and Seagram is already making its own efforts to penetrate the Japanese market. The second question, therefore, is whether Suntory might turn to alternative supplies.

It already buys from other companies, including, it is understood, Tomatin and Hiram Walker which produces Ballantine's. Aside from the issue of whether any of its existing suppliers could produce a direct alternative, in terms of taste, Glenlivet, the obvious question is whether Suntory might seek an equity holding in another company.

More particularly, since its 11 per cent in Glenlivet has not protected Glenlivet from a bid, might it not be tempted to follow Seagram's lead with an outright purchase?

Christopher Wilkins

Barclaycard cuts interest rate to 1½ pc

By Ronald Pullen

Banking Correspondent

Barclaycard yesterday regained the initiative over the rival Access credit card operation by cutting its monthly interest rate from 1½ to 1¼ per cent.

The charge was last reduced on October 5 in response to the Access announcement of a new 100,000 credit card operation, dropping its rate to 1½ per cent. Barclaycard was considering a full half-point cut in its rates, but because of the costs involved in making frequent rate adjustments, it opted to cut its rate by only a quarter.

Access's response to Barclaycard's move was a holding statement into "we will be considering our own competitive decision".

But with the peak Christmas spending season coming up, it seems likely that Access will have to make a decision fairly quickly, although both credit card groups seem agreed that customers are relatively insensitive to interest rates.

Exploiting the move, Mr Frank Sussman, Barclaycard's director of marketing, said: "When we reduced our interest rate to 1½ per cent it was thought unlikely that the cost of money would fall further. But now we feel it right to pass the benefit to our customers."

He added, however, that it would be difficult to hold this rate if money costs rose unless there was some relaxation of the minimum 1 per cent or 55 repayment rules.

Access emphasized yesterday that any further move on interest rates would not create difficulties between members of the joint credit card company.

Peugeot in £227m deal to build Iran factory

By Clifford Webb

Peugeot, the French car manufacturer, yesterday signed a contract worth £227m with Iran National Motor Industry Company to build a car plant in Iran to produce 100,000 cars a year by 1980.

The news caused some concern in Britain last night because of its implications for Chrysler UK. For the past 10 years Chrysler has been Iran National's only source of car "kits".

Iranian business is Britain's biggest single export contract in the motor industry—worth 100,000 cars this year—and due to increase to 150,000 next year.

But the Chrysler model involved—Chrysler's last night because of its implications for Chrysler UK. For the past 10 years Chrysler has been Iran National's only source of car "kits".

At the beginning the French group will supply the body, the gearbox and other elements of the vehicle, about 40 per cent of the parts being produced in Iran. But this proportion will be gradually increased as Iranian automobile production develops.

Peugeot will also provide the technical staff and training facilities. The contract will be financed by the Iranian group.

Peugeot will also provide the technical staff and training facilities. The contract will be financed by the Iranian group.

STC wins Swedish phone order

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Correspondent

A £400,000 order for specialised telecommunications equipment for the Swedish Telecommunications Administration was announced yesterday by Standard Telephones & Cables, London.

Barry unforseen problems, this could lead to further orders for the administration which would bring the total value to about £1.5m.

The equipment, known as Operator Position Assistance System (OPAS) is used to speed up and automate much of the routine part of the work of telephone operators. It is based on an original design developed by the Post Office.

Mr Jeff Samson, STC director, switching, said yesterday that in terms of technology and the market, Sweden was probably the toughest telecom market in the world. Certainly a more familiar pattern in recent years has been the entry of Swedish telecommunications equipment into the United Kingdom market.

Mr Donald Huddart, general manager of the switching products division, stressed the flexibility of the new system and the fact that it was designed to be added to existing switchrooms with little modification to other installed equipment. STC was talking to other potential customers in Europe, the Middle East and the Far East, he said.

For the Post Office, STC is supplying similar equipment which will be installed in one telephone switching centre next year. Subject to satisfactory performance, the intention is to extend the use of the automatic equipment throughout the United Kingdom telecommunications network.

Treasury saw overshoot of 13 pc limit as inevitable

Continued from page 1

any prospect of economic recovery, something which senior ministers are not prepared to do.

Even by the time that the decision to allow the pound to float was taken, many in the Treasury were convinced that an overshooting of the 13 per cent ceiling had become inevitable.

The float served the double purpose of stopping the increase of money supply through foreign inflows and signalling to the markets that the authorities were serious in their determination to stop money supply growth getting out of control.

For next year the much broader-based and the rolling form of the targets to be chosen will make it easier for the authorities to ensure that their targets are met in the current financial year, however, they accept that it will take more good luck than they can reasonably expect to return below the limit.

The figures for next year's target are still far from being

fixed. It seems to be accepted that they should be small enough to allow no real growth in money supply above the natural increase in output.

The question of the appropriate monetary target for 1978-79 is tied up with the issue of what limits should be set on domestic credit expansion (government and private borrowing from banks) in talks with the International Monetary Fund which begin next week.

Because it now looks as if the surplus on our balance of payments during the 1978-79 financial year will be less than the £2,000m to £3,000m predicted in the IMF Letter of Intent, the IMF limit of £5,000m agreed with the Fund looks to be too small.

This is because the increase in the money supply is, roughly speaking, equal to the expansion of domestic credit plus the surplus on the payments account. A figure of around £7,000m might be sufficient for DCE.

It is thought that the Fund officials will not stand in the way of such an adjustment,

New Inchcape bid values Crane Fruehauf at £14.4m

By Richard Allen

The bitter and prolonged battle for control of Crane Fruehauf, the Norfolk-based trailer group, entered a new stage last night. Inchcape raised its offer for the group to a value of 33.4p a share.

This figure is just over 3p more than the sum offered on Wednesday by rival suitors Fruehauf Corporation of the United States. The Inchcape bid is on the basis of an exchange of 32 of its own ordinary for every 125 of Crane. But there is also a cash alternative of 93p a share.

The latest bid valuing Crane at £14.4m is fully supported by the United Kingdom directors

6½ pc increase in spending on household goods

Spending on household goods rose by more than 6½ per cent in volume terms in the third quarter of this year. This was one of the strongest retailing sectors during the three months, when overall consumer spending increased by about 1½ per cent.

Spending on clothing and footwear has also gone up rapidly in the past few months, and is now well above the depressed levels of a year ago. Food and drink sales have fallen, however, but this is partly in reaction to earlier price rises.

Ekofisk development costs leap \$700m in a year

By Malcolm Brown

Estimated capital development costs of the Greater Ekofisk oil and gas area in the North Sea have gone up by nearly 16 per cent.

Phillips Petroleum Co, Norway said yesterday the estimated costs were now \$5,200m (about £2,889m). In 1976 total capital costs were estimated at \$4,500m.

The group said that among the major factors which had led to an increase in estimates were Norwegian regulations concerning a 26-hour offshore working week which had added \$70m to costs.

Tilbury fire contained

The fire at the Central Electricity Generating Board's Tilbury power station, which began on Wednesday, was reported yesterday to be contained to a section of a tunnel underneath the floor of the turbine hall.

A spokesman for the board's south-east region said it had been impossible to enter the hall because of the smoke,

In brief

and so the extent of the damage could not yet be estimated.

There are four generating sets in the turbine hall, and the section of the tunnel where the fire was burning yesterday is near to two of them. The spokesman said that fire damage was covered by the board's outside insurance protection.

Steel dumping inquiry

An anti-dumping procedure has been opened by the European Commission against thin-walled iron and steel tubes made in Spain. Under the procedure, an inquiry was started following a complaint by the French Steel Tube Manufacturers' Association that such Spanish-made tubes are reaching the French market at prices of about 30 per cent below those in Spain, a spokesman said.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 202.76-1.93
The FT index: 481.0-3.3

Rises

Byvoors 37p to 340p
Brit & Comm 5p to 267p
Canterbury 10p to 185p
Deacons 8p to 235p
E Hand Prop 22p to 401p
Fisons 5p to 385p

Falls

Broken Hill 10p to 460p
Daily Mail 7p to 323p
House of Fraser 6p to 135p
Jardine Matheson 7p to 213p
Johns-Richard 8p to 312p
Mercury Securities 12p to 127p
Needles 1p to 15p
Peko Wallend 10p to 430p

Equities lost ground. Gilt-edged securities fell late in the day. Dollar premium 95.0 per cent (effective rate 37.07 per cent). Sterling gained 20p to 81.85p. The effective exchange rate index was at 63.7.

Glenlivet Dist 30p to 460p
Laurie & Co 65p
More O'Ferrall 8p to 85p
Oil Exploration 20p to 302p
Port Farms 20p to 490p
Stocklake Holdings 15p to 71p

Sainsbury 6p to 194p
Schroders 10p to 430p
Shell 11p to 135p
Sun Alliance 7p to 548p
Taylor Woodrow 6p to 428p
Unilever 14p to 528p
Vickers 4p to 175p
Watts Blake 7p to 150p

Gold gained \$0.25 an ounce to \$19.375.
SRR-4 was 1.18102 on Wednesday while SDR-4 was 0.649840.
Commodities: Renter's index was at 1,489.5, previous 1,481.6.
Reports, pages 22, 23 and 24

THE POUND

Australia \$ 1.66
Austria Sch 30.75
Belgium Fr 66.75
Canada \$ 2.06
Denmark Kr 11.50
Finland Mkk 7.80
France Fr 4.92
Germany Dm 4.85
Greece Dr 78.00
Hong Kong \$ 8.80
Italy Lit 1620.00
Japan Yen 165.00
Netherlands Gld 4.59
Norway Kr 10.25
Portugal Esc 78.00
S Africa Rd 157.00
Spain Pes 165.00
Sweden Kr 9.00
Switzerland Fr 4.20
US \$ 1.86
Yugoslavia Dnr 32.00

Bank sells Bank buys
1.61 1.61
28.75 28.75
63.75 63.75
2.01 2.01
11.10 11.10
7.55 7.55
4.76 4.76
4.85 4.85
73.50 73.50
8.35 8.35
1575.00 1575.00
164.00 164.00
4.37 4.37
9.99 9.99
74.00 74.00
151.00 151.00
8.65 8.65
3.98 3.98
1.81 1.81
36.25 36.25

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Setback in profit for British Airways

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Industrial disputes both within and outside the airline, plus technical problems with their Trident 3 airliner fleet, have reduced British Airways' six-month profit by about £37m before the cost of capital borrowings and taxation.

British Airways said yesterday that their profit for the six busy summer months between April and September was £25m, compared with £29m for the same period last year.

This was on a revenue of £697m, while the revenue for the April-September period of 1976 was £656m. Profit before the cost of capital borrowings and taxation for the six summer months this year was £71m, compared with £83m in 1976. Taxation and minorities had come to £33m this year (£40m in 1976).

British Airways' financial results have been affected this year by a strike of some of their engineers, by a strike of air traffic control assistants, and by the grounding of a large part of their Trident 3 fleet after the discovery of wing cracking.

Sir Frank McFadden, chairman of British Airways reported in July a net profit of £35m for the financial year 1976-77. He said then that the strike of engineers in the spring had cost the airline £31m in lost revenue.

Coal chief urges joint effort to raise production

A way must be found by the National Coal Board and the union to reverse the industry's present downward trend in productivity, Sir Derek Ezra, the board's chairman said in South Wales yesterday.

Sir Derek, who was visiting South Wales collieries, welcomed the recent statement by NUM officials including Mr Joe Gormley, the union's president, which recognized that the union is one of the parties to the industry's investment plan, was committed to meeting the production objectives required to secure the industry's future.

"So far we are not fulfilling the promises we submitted to the Government—in the form of Plan for Coal—in return for the capital we need and are now getting for the modernization and expansion of the industry. We proposed to increase productivity by 4 per cent a year; instead it has been falling."

"For the moment coal is still cheaper than oil for most purposes. In the forthcoming winter negotiations it will be essential to maintain that price advantage. What we cannot do, as a board, is to pay out more money for less output."

Builders call for review of 'costly' system to defeat tax evasion

By John Huxley

Building leaders have urged the Chancellor to review the operation of a government scheme introduced to tackle tax abuses associated with the "lump sum".

The scheme—sometimes known as 714 scheme after the tax certificate involved—imposes "heavy and costly administrative burdens on the industry", the National Federation of Building Trades Employers says in a memorandum to Mr Hesley.

It must be modified substantially if wasteful bureaucratic excesses are to be avoided. They point out that "initial compliance costs" for one large construction company were estimated at about £100,000. Case histories of delays and difficulties experienced by other

companies are also given in the memorandum.

The scheme was introduced in April, this year, primarily to eliminate tax evasion by workers employed on the "lump sum" under which sub-contractors are paid a fixed price lump sum.

It requires construction companies, as well as sole traders and partnerships to obtain exemption certificates from the Inland Revenue if they are not to suffer a statutory deduction of 34 per cent from payments due to them.

The federation, while accepting the need to curb tax evasion, believes that the scheme's scope and coverage are unnecessarily wide.

Noting that the change to the new system called for costly study and preparation, the federation says that most build-

ing employers found that they were involved in two capacities—both as contractors and sub-contractors.

"These two tasks together amounted to a major administrative exercise throughout the industry."

The federation says it is deeply disturbed at the magnitude of the costs already incurred. But its main concern is the continuing administrative burden and costs.

It calls on the Inland Revenue to be reasonable and not seek to penalize companies who make "unintentional errors".

There was widespread opposition within the industry to the introduction of the present scheme. The Treasury, however, estimated that the long-standing abuse of the lump sum was costing about £10m a year in lost revenue.

Fewer first time house buyers get mortgages

By Margaret Stone

At a time when the Government is preparing legislation to help first-time house buyers, evidence available from the building societies indicates that 47.3 per cent of all advances in the third quarter of the year went to new owner-occupiers.

In the previous quarter nearly 50 per cent went to first-time buyers. New owner-occupiers last quarter paid an average of £10,832 for their homes and borrowed 78.6 per cent. By contrast, former owner-occupiers paid an average £16,386, of which they borrowed 56.1 per cent.

The figures are contained in statistics released yesterday by the Department of the Environment based on a 5 per cent sample survey of building society mortgages at the completion stage. In other words, the house prices listed are about six weeks out of date.

In the third quarter borrowers were buying houses at an average price of 2.63 times their average recorded income, and obtained advances on average of 1.7 times their income.

The average house price in 1973, however, was £9,942 compared with the average house price of £13,773 recorded in the third quarter of this year. (It was £15,332 the previous quarter.)

More than 90 per cent of all mortgages went on homes with an average price of less than £7,500; 63 per cent of homes below the average price of £13,773, while homes costing more than £20,000 accounted for just over 13 per cent of advances.

Regional house prices ranged from £10,782 in Yorkshire and Humberside to £16,930 in Greater London. Compared with prices a year ago, the areas where house prices are rising fastest are Northern Ireland, Scotland and northern England.

Escort output resumes but Ford troubles not over

Production of Escort cars resumed at the Ford plant at Halewood, Liverpool, yesterday after the settlement of separate strikes which cost the company £12m in lost production.

The night shift was recalled last night.

But Halewood's problems may not be over, it was learnt that the staff unions at national level had rejected the 12 per cent company pay package which the hourly-paid production workers accepted last month.

Meetings are to be held at the plants and the 1,000 foremen, staff engineers and clerical workers at Halewood are to meet at Widnes on Sunday to consider what, if any, industrial action to take.

The two separate strikes which have hit the Halewood plant for the past 10 days, were settled on Wednesday

£2,000m earned overseas by construction industry

Tribute to the overseas performance of the construction industry was paid yesterday by Mr Reg Fresson, Minister for Housing and Construction.

Last year more than 25 per cent of the United Kingdom's favourable trade balance on invisible earnings came from the efforts of our building and civil engineering consultants and contractors—a point which those who praised shipping, banking and insurance would do well to remember, he said at an International Congress on Architecture in Construction and Civil Engineering Contracts.

This was no mean achievement in mind the strength of competition for construction projects in the Third World countries. Earnings overseas by the industry last year were more than £2,000m.

"British consulting engineers, architects and surveyors have been active overseas for years. They have built up an enviable reputation with foreign clients. Our building and civil engineering contractors have a longer history of overseas operations than those of any other country."



Mr Reg Fresson

Pressure on Mr Carter to stimulate growth

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Nov 17

Pressures are increasing on the Carter Administration to support new policies to stimulate the economy. Latest official economic statistics strengthen the impression that the year ahead will see modest, but not substantial real economic growth.

The Federal Reserve Board announced that industrial production was estimated to have increased by 0.3 per cent last month, after an advance of 0.4 per cent in September; and the Department of Commerce announced a small gain in the growth rate of personal incomes. The increase was \$20,200m (about £11,900m) in October,

compared with a rise of \$12,400m in the previous month.

Senator William Proxmire, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, yesterday released a statement calling for simplified direct, meaningful tax cut at the beginning of 1978 to get the economy moving again. . . . a major cut soon should be at the top of the Carter economic agenda."

The commerce department announced today a general improvement in corporate profits in the third quarter and revised upwards gross national product figures. A greater level of growth is shown in the third quarter than had been widely predicted.

Preliminary estimates suggest that corporate profits rose by

\$7,600m in the third quarter to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$147,800m.

Last month the department said the real gnp in the third quarter rose by 3.8 per cent, but today it showed that revised figures show the rate of growth to have been 4.7 per cent.

The most striking features of the revised figures concern the inflation rate, with the chain price index, which is viewed as the best price indicator in the gnp data, now said to have gained by only 4.4 per cent at an annual rate.

Higher exports and higher inventory investment were the main contributors to the upward revision in the gnp estimate.

In the second quarter of this year real gnp rose at an annual rate of 6.2 per cent, with the

chain price index showing a 7.9 per cent annual rate of gain.

Total nominal United States gnp is now close to the \$2,000,000m level, having advanced in the last quarter by 10 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$194,900m.

Calls for a tax cut are being heard with increasing frequency from both Democratic and Republican politicians and they appear to have considerable support within the Administration.

According to the Federal Reserve, increases in industrial output were widespread among products and most materials last month. The index of industrial production has risen by 6.8 per cent during the past 12 months.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Monopolistic' attitude to computer maintenance

From Mr M. L. Eastwell

Sir, Mr P. V. Ellis, in his letter (November 3) defended ICL's computer maintenance policy by pointing out the heavy investment in diagnostic routines the company had made. His argument is unconvincing to Boeing or BAC saying that they would not release diagnostic procedures to airlines and the organizations which maintain their aircraft because they, the manufacturers, had spent so much money on working out how to keep the aircraft flying, that it was necessary to recoup the cost through subsequent maintenance contracts.

Perhaps it would be wise for Mr Ellis to have a close look at the key objectives of ICL. In other words, what is the purpose for which ICL is in business, in fact what is the purpose for which all computer manufacturers are in business. I would suggest that it is:

1. To research, design and subsequently build good computer products.
2. To market these products to computer users.
3. To provide the normal support facilities extended by manufacturers in other technical industries to their customers, such facilities being the ready supply of spare parts, diagnostics, documentation and technical support.

After all, highly technical industries such as the aircraft industry and the motor car industry provide readily to the purchaser or manager of the equipment such facilities. It is of some concern to me to know why computer suppliers, and in particular ICL, retain a monopolistic attitude to the maintenance of their equipment.

Surely the generally excellent products ICL is offering to the customer should be fully backed by provision of such diagnostic procedures in the normal course of business?

ICL is free to charge a fair price for use of such diagnostic routines, as is usually the case with various types of computer software packages. I should also point out that third party maintenance companies often develop suitable diagnostic routines in addition to those originally designed by the equipment manufacturer, to help them maintain customers' computing systems effectively.

In the USA, constrained by the Consent Decree of 1956, IBM adopted certain business practices, including:

- (a) "To offer training to outsiders in or entering the repair and maintenance business and to sell to them and IBM equipment owners certain technical documents, replacement parts and subassemblies, and instruction manuals."
- (b) "To allow customers to alter or attach equipment (with certain exceptions) and to provide instruction manuals."

IBM has complied readily, both in the USA and worldwide, whether or not IBM customers use third party maintenance. This reasonable attitude has enhanced IBM's reputation in the marketplace.

But probably the most important factor is the rapidly developing cross-fertilization between users purchasing equipment from a number of suppliers to create a "mixed system". Experience shows that in the event of a fault, this can lead to debates between the maintenance engineers of the various equipment suppliers as to whose equipment is causing the trouble. A third party maintenance organization usually has to accept responsibility for the total system, and get on with the job, or lose the contract. The upshot is that the user benefits.

Yours sincerely,
MAX L. EASTWELL,
General Manager, U.K.,
Data Processing Customer Engineering Dept Ltd,
81 Hereward Road,
Watson-on-Thames,
Surrey, KT12 1JN,
November 15.

Implications of Didcot for freight policy

From Mr Mick Hamer

Sir, The possible closure of the inland port of Didcot (November 15) is likely to concern not only the railway workers mentioned in your report but also all those who want to stem the ever-increasing number of heavy lorries.

With the South Africa-Southampton trade being containerized between now and the end of 1978, the forced closure of Didcot, due to unofficial action by the Transport and General Workers' Union, would cause a large increase in road freight.

The recent Transport Policy White Paper committed the Government to working for a free market in freight. Yet for a free market to work in practice the conditions of competition between road and rail must be fair. And if Didcot is forced to close that will plainly not be the case.

Didcot thus presents a major challenge to the Government's new freight policy. If the Government fails to resolve this dispute and Didcot does close, the Government's freight policy will be seen not as a free-market policy but as a pro-heavy lorry policy.

Yours faithfully,
MICK HAMER,
Director,
Transport 2000,
40 James Street, W1M 5HS,
November 15.

Architects' fees

From Mr H. B. N. Grillo

Sir, Why should the Government be so ready to act by statute against my trade union, which happens to call itself the Royal Institute of British Architects (and which does not have a monopoly of building design), setting a rate for the remuneration of its members, when any other trade union, which may have its monopoly protected by a closed shop, can make demands for the remuneration of its members which the Government is not prepared to curtail by law?

Yours faithfully,
H. B. N. GRILLO,
Marsh House,
Roke Lane,
Witley,
Surrey.

Understanding the function of the City

From Mr G. E. Price

Sir, The article by Eric Moonman and the related letters of Messrs Quinlan and Ogden (October 25 and November 1) surely deserve further comment: the subject in question, the City, has a vital relevance for the people of this country.

I am sure Messrs Moonman and Ogden sincerely wish to improve the value of life in Britain, but their misplaced criticism of the City unfortunately threatens all our living standards. To suggest, as Mr Moonman does, that ignorance about the City is "its great strength" is a pointless observation. Ignorance is almost total in respect of most skilled occupations: coal mining, dentistry, pattern making, tool-making, whatever.

The City's strength owes nothing to ignorance. It is that those who need to use its services most fully understand its skills. But if those whom it serves—directors of companies, heads of local authorities or of

state enterprises—subsequently demonstrate the frailty of humanity by swindling the taxpayer or cheating investors or committing suicide, why relate those acts to the City?

Are the insurance companies, the merchant banks, the stockbrokers, the clearing banks to act as policemen of morality in boardrooms throughout the country?

And it really is long past the time when Members of Parliament can confess to believe that industry is being starved of capital by the inaction of the City. Money is not manufactured by the City. It certainly does not belong to the City, but the manner of its passing is directed by its owners—a workers' pension fund, a great industrial company, GEC, for instance, with £500m of cash, enough to build and equip factories galore; perhaps Messrs Moonman and Ogden can put forward acceptable projects to that company's board. But neither they

nor the City have a dictate in that matter.

A City friend, head of a great pension fund, recently told me that in the space of a few weeks his fund made profits of £4m in Government securities. One man, an assistant, their efforts for a few hours, a dozen telephone calls, a dozen decisions, and they have jointly generated as much money as a conflict of miners working for a solid three months.

I suspect my gut reaction—obsession with money—is that of Moonman and Ogden, but my reaction is foolish if it flies in the face of reason. To the question that headed Mr Moonman's article, "Is the City really the villain some people think it is?" the answer is: "Certainly, not—rather seek to curb envy with rational reflection."

Yours faithfully,
G. E. PRICE,
47 Thomas More House,
Barbican,
London, EC2,
November 7.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NO. 73-08467
In Proceedings for the
Reorganization of a Corporation

NOTICE OF

- 1) APPLICATION FOR FINAL DECREE INCLUDING ORDER FIXING TIME FOR PARTICIPATION IN DISTRIBUTION;
- 2) APPLICATION FOR FINAL COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS AND EXPENSES; and
- 3) ENTRY OF PERMANENT INJUNCTION

TO ALL CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF EQUITY FUNDING CORPORATION OF AMERICA:

APPLICATION FOR FINAL DECREE INCLUDING ORDER FIXING TIME FOR PARTICIPATION IN DISTRIBUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on December 12, 1977, at 10:00 a.m. Room 809, United States Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California, a hearing will be held pursuant to Section 226 of the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. § 626) and Rule 10-239(b) of the Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure for the consideration of the Application of the Trustee for final decree, which shall (i) confirm the discharge of the Estate of Equity Funding Corporation of America, the Debtor herein (the "Estate"), from all its debts and liabilities and the termination of all rights and interests of its shareholders and creditors except as provided for in the Trustee's Amended Plan of Reorganization (dated February 25, 1976) (the "Trustee's Plan"); (ii) fix a date five years from the entry of the final decree as the last date of the period in which holders of allowed claims may participate in distribution from the Estate; (iii) approve accountings relating to cash receipts and disbursements of the Estate with respect to the period from April 5, 1973 through September 30, 1977, and Final Report covering the same period; (iv) discharge Robert M. Loeffer, Trustee herein from April 10, 1976 to October 12, 1976, and Robert A. Baker, Trustee herein from October 12, 1976 to the present date; (v) declare the Estate closed. Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time without further notice, other than the announcement of said adjournment date or dates at the hearing of December 12, 1977, or any adjournment therefrom.

Said application is made on the following grounds. On February 25, 1976, the above entitled court entered Order No. B-1467, confirming the Trustee's Plan, authorizing substantial consummation of the Trustee's Plan, and making provisions auxiliary thereto. On March 31, 1976, substantially all of the assets of the Estate were transferred to Orion Capital Corporation, a Delaware corporation ("Orion"), the successor corporation to Equity Funding Corporation of America, and the above entitled court entered Order No. B-1579 declaring the Trustee's Plan to have been substantially consummated pursuant to Section 226(a) of the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. § 626(a)) and Rule 10-239(c)(2) of the Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure. On September 30, 1977, all of the remaining assets of the Estate were transferred to Orion, Orion agreed to assume administrative liabilities of the Estate and obligations of the Trustee enumerated in an Assumption Agreement between Orion and the Trustee dated September 30, 1977, and the Trustee made provision for the distribution of monies, if and when received, to creditors in Class 6 pursuant to Paragraph 9.3(d) of the Trustee's Plan. Since all assets of the Estate have been transferred to Orion and all liabilities of the Estate have been consummated. Prior to the hearing, accountings relating to cash receipts and disbursements of the Estate with respect to the period from April 5, 1973 through September 30, 1977, and a Final Report for the period from April 5, 1973 through September 30, 1977 will be filed with the above entitled court.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLOSING OF THE ESTATE WILL NOT AFFECT CLAIMS FILED IN THE PENDING SETTLEMENT OF THE ACTION ENTITLED IN RE EQUITY FUNDING CORPORATION OF AMERICA SECURITIES LITIGATION, M.D.L. DOCKET NO. 83-3311.

APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN COSTS AND EXPENSES OF TRUSTEE

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on December 12, 1977, at 10:00 A.M., Room 809, United States Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California, a hearing will be held for the consideration of the application of Robert A. Baker, Trustee herein from October 12, 1976 to the present date, for a final award of compensation and reimbursement of costs and expenses. Compensation will be applied for in the sum of \$82,000.00 for the period from October 12, 1976 through September 30, 1977, representing compensation at the rate of \$75.00 per hour. Compensation will be applied for with respect to the period from October 1, 1977 through December 12, 1977 at the rate of \$50.00 per hour, but not to exceed the aggregate amount of \$4,500.00. Reimbursement of reasonable costs and expenses will be applied for in the amount of \$865.58 for the period from October 12, 1976 through September 30, 1977, and in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 for the period from October 1, 1977 to December 12, 1977. Interim awards of compensation and reimbursement of costs therefore paid to said Trustee will be set off against said sums. At said hearing on December 12, 1977, objections to this application will be heard. Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time without further notice, other than the announcement of said adjournment date or dates at the hearing of December 12, 1977, or any adjournment therefrom.

Any written objections to said application shall be filed on or before November 28, 1977, with the Office of Bankruptcy Judge and Special Master James E. Moriarty, Room 809, United States Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, with copies served upon:

Robert A. Baker, Trustee
Estate of Equity Funding Corporation of America
1900 Avenue of the Stars
Los Angeles, California 90067

and
O'Melveny & Myers
Attention: Michael Newman, Esq.
611 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles, California 90017

and
Securities and Exchange Commission
Division of Corporate Regulation
Attention: Grant G. Guthrie, Associate Director
500 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20549

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF PERMANENT INJUNCTION
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that on August 30, 1977, an order was entered by the above entitled court making permanent that certain Preliminary Injunction entered April 11, 1976, being Order No. B-1044, enjoining the maintenance of actions against subsidiaries of the above-named Debtor.

ROBERT A. BAKER
Trustee

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
DATED: November 8, 1977

Business appointments Mr J. Hyde new finance director of George Salter

Mr John Hyde has been appointed financial director of the George Salter group.

Mr W. H. Everett, managing director of George Salter, becomes additionally chairman.

Mr Maurice Elderfield is to become a full-time finance member of the board of British Shipbuilders.

Mr Ian Lennox has become director of marketing at Plessey Communications.

Mr George Imman has been appointed a director of Showers, Vine Products and Whiteaways.

Mr Alan Alexander and Mr George Henderson have joined the board of the Housing Corporation.

Mr F. J. Madrum has become a director of Barton and Sons.

Mr R. J. Goosman has joined the board of William Jacks.

Five new members of the Advisory Council on Energy Conservation have been appointed. They are: Sir Goronwy Daniel, Mr R. H. Kay, Miss Betty Lockwood, Mr R. Morris and Mr L. V. D. Tindale.

MONEY SUPPLY

The following are the figures released for the monthly amount of the money stock, seasonally adjusted at the mid-month make-up date:

	M1	M2	M3
£000m	£000m	£000m	£000m
1976			
Aug	18.0	38.9	19.3
Sept	18.5	38.6	11.4
Oct	18.2	40.0	6.9
Nov	18.3	40.5	6.6
Dec	18.7	40.4	3.9
1977			
Jan	18.3	39.7	3.1
Feb	18.5	39.3	3.5
March	18.5	39.3	-3.6
April	19.2	40.1	19.7
May	19.3	40.4	17.0
June	19.8	40.7	28.0
July	19.9	41.2	19.5
Aug	20.2	41.3	22.7
Sept	20.7	42.2	34.3
Oct	21.5	42.9	35.8

MONTHLY CHANGE IN STERLING M3 AND DOMESTIC CREDIT EXPANSION

	External Non-Domestic	Domestic	Total
£000m	£000m	£000m	£000m
May	+253	-77	+176
June	+303	+145	+448
July	+508	-840	-332
Aug	+75	+74	+149
Sept	+85	-812	-727
Oct	+741	-374	+367

CUMULATIVE TOTAL FOR 1977/78

	Annual	Domestic	Annual
£000m	£000m	£000m	£000m
2763	14.2	+1165	2330
Growth limits 1977/78			
Sterling M3: 9.13%			
DCE: 27.700m			

Braby Leslie Ltd

Mechanical and Civil Engineers

INTERIM STATEMENT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 1977

The unaudited results for the half-year ended 30th September 1977 are given below together with the comparative figures for the half-year ended 30th September 1976 and the full year ended 31st March 1977.

The results include post-acquisition turnover and profit before tax of £2,505,000 and £267,000 respectively from E. C. Payter & Company Limited acquired on 1st July 1977, and S. Briggs & Company Limited, acquired on 1st September 1977 with effect from 1st April 1977.

	Half-year ended 30th September 1977	Half-year ended 30th September 1976	Year ended 31st March 1977
£000	£000	£000	£000
Turnover	15,417	10,757	23,658
Trading Profit	1,212	890	1,651
Interest Payable	(56)	(82)	(138)
PRE-TAX PROFIT	1,156	808	1,515
Taxation (note 7)	(447)	(301)	(294)
NET PROFIT after taxation and before extraordinary items	709	507	1,221
Extraordinary items	—	—	(596)
Earnings per Ordinary Share	8.4p	8.0p	17.7p
Earnings per Ordinary Share assuming full tax charge at 52%	6.6p	6.1p	10.5p
Net tangible assets per Ordinary Share	73.7p	66.3p	70.2p

NOTES:
1.—The low taxation charge is due to the fact that provision has been made for deferred taxation only to the extent that there is reasonable probability that stock values will reduce in the foreseeable future.
2.—The earnings and net tangible assets per Ordinary Share at 30th September 1977 have been based on 8,417,817 shares deemed to have been in issue from 1st April 1977.

In the Interim Statement to shareholders, the Chairman, Mr. Eric Izod, makes the following points:

- An interim dividend of 2p (gross 3-0303p) per share has been declared for the year ending 31st March 1978, compared with 1-75p (gross 2-8223p) paid last year.
- The Board expects, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, to recommend a final dividend of 3-25p (gross 4-9242p) for the year ending 31st March 1978, making a total of 5-25p (gross 7-9545p) per share. For the previous year dividends will amount to 4-5423p (gross 6-9231p) per share.
- S. Briggs & Company Limited was acquired for a consideration of £736,682 as from 1st April 1977. Its brewing equipment complements and expands the Group's range of bulk storage equipment.
- The mechanical engineering companies have had a satisfactory half-year and demand continues to be good.
- In a difficult civil engineering climate, George Leslie Limited and Tam's Loup Quarries Limited have achieved results higher than expected and are currently operating at a satisfactory level.
- The run-down of Cable Lines Limited has proceeded smoothly; contracts have been exchanged for the sale of the freehold property in Nottingham for £115,000 (book value £39,480).

We have eliminated current losses at Cable Lines Limited and believe adequate provisions have been made for rectification work etc. We also have the benefit of recent acquisitions. Having regard to the current order books in the Group, we are confident that unless there are unforeseen circumstances outside our control, our expansion will be maintained.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Towards higher interest rates

It never rains but it pours for the monetary authorities. Having moved to save their money supply target by ceasing to pump sterling into the foreign exchange market, they immediately find themselves faced with the possibility that bank lending to the private sector may be on the verge of growing far more rapidly than expected. Last month it grew by almost £500m (seasonally adjusted), taking the annualized rate of increase after six months up to just over 24.500m.

To what extent the figure for the latest month will prove a quirk remains to be seen and the authorities are, as I suggested yesterday, unlikely to be panicked into counter measures just yet. But were bank lending to remain at a relatively high level from now on, the authorities task in getting back inside the projected 13 per cent ceiling for sterling M3 growth by next April will obviously be formidable.

To meet the ceiling, growth in sterling M3 needs to be restricted to under £2,500m over the second six months of the year, a period moreover when the public sector contribution to monetary growth is going to be more positive than it has been in the opening six months.

How the authorities might react if they find themselves in a corner by Christmas is a matter of speculation. There could be a temptation to press the case that exceptional factors in the first half of 1977-78—albeit of their own making—provide mitigating circumstances and that what is important is the future trend.

It would certainly be interesting to see how such an attitude would wash in financial markets. The danger would not only be that such a line would not only serve to compound the problem but also undermine credibility in the flexibility the authorities would like to give themselves through the introduction next spring of rolling money supply targets. Meanwhile, one way or the other, the day of the upward correction in short-term interest rates looks to be drawing steadily closer.

Shell

Currency distortions

Stripping out the by-now ritual currency distortions, the message from Shell's third quarter results is that world oil products markets remain extremely sluggish and are likely to remain so for at least the next two or three quarters. And the figures fell just far enough short of stockmarket expectations to leave the shares 11p easier at 564p.

Underlining the kind of smokescreen currencies have become at Shell, third quarter net income of £229m bears no comparison at all with last year's £176m. Then net income had to contend with currency losses of £178m whereas for the same period this year there has been a

During the fourth quarter fuel oil and natural gas should show their seasonal pattern but set against that there could be further stock losses percolating through from July's Opec price rise and the rise in sterling. Full year net income should still fall in the £1,350-£1,400m range for a prospective p/e ratio of just under 6. The sluggish oil market, however, is likely to squeeze Shell's downstream operations more than the crude-rich British Petroleum although Shell's ease is still its yield attractions when it is free to pay up the 21p of stored up dividends.

Beecham

Impetus from overseas

Given evidence of flat demand in Europe reflected in recent results from Courtauld and Unilever, the 19 per cent improvement in Beecham's profits for the half-year to September at £70.6m come as a pleasant surprise, although the comparative figures have been adjusted to take out currency gains.

While profits in the United Kingdom, were up, apparently, by around £1m, despite heavy involvement in soft drinks, which suffered from the poor summer weather, the real growth areas seem to have been in the Far East for consumer products and in North and South America with pharmaceuticals.

This is despite a natural slowing down in the growth of the amoxicillin antibiotics, which have been such a boon to the group. But with ever greater penetration of the new drugs throughout world markets, further growth must be limited, and unlike Glaxo, Beecham apparently has no new major drugs coming to the market in the near couple of years.

There are other growth possibilities. Calgon in the United States, which was loss-making after a major expansion programme appears to be moving ahead faster than expected, although the contribution in the half, after interest charges, appears negligible, and prospects in the third world remain good.

However currency effects will be more marked in the second half and profit estimates for the year are around £150m. Against Glaxo, the attractions of the shares are that the 200 per cent dividend increase is an indirect result of the Calgon acquisition, which has given a yield of 4.5 per cent at 625p, although its growth prospects do not look quite so good.

Redland

Holding the line

Redland continues to make the best of severely depressed conditions in the construction industry. In fact, at the interim stage profits are actually up by 7 per cent at £17.8m. But Redland has relied heavily on its associate companies particularly in Australia for much of the running; they managed an improvement in profits of around a third to £4.26m.

At home conditions remain bleak with a 3 per cent sales increase to £59m masking an overall drop in volume of around 8 per cent, with exceptional growth in the brick division compensating for volume falls of as much as 10 per cent in roof tiles and aggregates stretching to 35 per cent in the concrete pipes business.

Apart from Australia the picture is almost as dreary overseas. West Germany still shows few signs of staging a construction recovery. However, Redland is already beginning to see some benefits from new ventures particularly in the Middle East.

Profits this year look like being around £37m for a p/e ratio of just over 8 with the shares at 130p. Here the dividend yield would be under 5 per cent but cover, assuming adoption of ED19, would be around 44 times.

As for next year, housing provides some room for optimism since private and public starts are expected to climb to 290,000. Together with more money going back into public spending on construction projects, there is some scope in the shares, particularly if dividend restraints are removed.

Techniques that provide action replays of sports events on television can play important roles also in industry, medicine and defence. A magic box of video tricks has been opened up, whose full contents have yet to be explored.

The techniques are based on the digital processing of video images. Digital processing of facts and figures in computers has been a familiar business for many years. Now sounds and pictures, too, can be electronically manipulated in digital form. Among the world leaders in this field are Micro Consultants of Catterham, Surrey, and their Quantel subsidiary, which have specialised in digital video processing and computer-based data-handling systems. The parent company claims to have been the first to market systems capable of changing colour television signals into digital form and back again into pictures with no loss of quality.

Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

Opening up the magic picture box

Quantel has concentrated on a range of equipment designed for television broadcasting organisations. Different "black boxes" handle different functions, but all are based on the use of microcircuit "frame stores"—solid-state memory units which can store all the digital electronic information needed to reproduce single frames of high-quality colour television.

This digital information can be manipulated electronically in different ways, so that the television picture itself is also transformed. This makes possible a range of special effects, which are obtained instantaneously by operating the console controls in the studio.

Thus the television producer in the studio can zoom in to give a fourfold magnification of a part of the picture, or "zoom out" to reduce the size down to a pinpoint. He can zoom in and follow a particular

element of the picture (a moving person or vehicle, for example). He can add and manipulate a quarter-screen size inset picture.

In a studio drama production, in which the action is recorded on videotape, the producer or editor can trim the picture to remove an intrusive microphone boom, or an anachronistic telephone kiosk in a historical production, or to correct other faults. Previously the scene would have to be re-shot; or transferred to film, corrected and then transferred back again to magnetic tape.

In sports television coverage the Quantel device can provide special optical effects that formerly could be achieved only with editing on film. Part of a football match, for instance, could be played back not only in slow motion but after zooming in to enlarge and follow the main subject of interest. The unwanted detail can be "filtered out" to improve the picture.

Many areas other than broadcast—medical X-ray work, in infra-red imaging, in commercial art and in a wide range of scientific, industrial, military and police activities.

By linking digital video processing with the power of the microcomputer, Micro Consultants have produced "Intellect", a self-contained system for generating and processing pictures. It is a general-purpose tool, tailored to specific jobs by appropriate computer programming.

Many applications are concerned with the selective interpretation of measurements (medical or scientific information) so that the user, in effect, sees the part of the resulting picture that he wishes to see.

In X-ray processing, as an example, a conventional radiograph contains much unwanted detail which may obscure the main subject of interest. The unwanted detail can be "filtered out" to improve the picture.

Medical information on an X-ray picture can thus be selectively enhanced. The same principle can be applied in the case of military surveillance—for example, with an image of a wood containing enemy vehicles. Another military application would be to provide security coding of images—the video equivalent of a "scrambled" telephone conversation.

In traffic control, it would be possible (but expensive) to develop a system in which a television camera would automatically track particular vehicles and, if necessary, display their speeds.

The digital video techniques would enable more realistic Photofit pictures to be produced by the police. The principle would be to use as the base conventional assembly of line drawings of parts of the face, but the resulting pictures, using photographs as the base, would be more realistic and could show more detail.

Will Hitachi become the enemy within the walls?

An unconfirmed report going the rounds of government circles in Helsinki could herald yet another move in the complex poker game being played out in this country. The game is over the Hitachi plan to start manufacturing television sets in North-East England.

So many issues, from fears of a net loss of jobs to the question of allowing into the country what could be savage foreign competition, have been raised by the Hitachi affair that Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, has understandably put off a decision for the time being.

But the word in Helsinki is that the Finnish-made television tubes and British fighter aircraft will figure in a £100m deal between the two countries. A letter of intent was signed on the fighter deal last November and the British are now putting together a shopping list of Finnish goods to help offset the cost of the aircraft.

The tubes would be produced by a company called Salora in which Hitachi has a 20 per cent interest and in which the Finnish government also has a stake. Hitherto the Japanese electronics giant has been a major supplier of television sets to the British market for colour television sets.

The British electronic components industry, already beset by the threat of Japanese competition in the British market, does not see how this argument can hold water. Its reasoning is that for the Finnish plant to operate economically, a production of some 800,000 tubes a year would be necessary and it doubts whether the Russian market could absorb all that.

Certainly, the view of Mullard, which is now Britain's sole remaining colour television tube producer, has been that the bulk of the Finnish production will be destined for the West European market.

In one of the many moves in the game, Hitachi appeared to have dealt with that one by making a formal offer to buy from Mullard the compact 110 degree tubes it needs (mainly for sets to be exported to Europe, where the 110 degree tubes are more popular). Hitachi is happy about the technical changes needed to marry Mullard tubes with Hitachi sets, though Mr Jack Akerman, Mullard's managing director,

has left a question mark over the deal by saying that for the moment he is not "absolutely satisfied" technically.

If the Helsinki speculation is right, will it in the end be in the British interests for Hitachi to import Finnish tubes for use as its North-East plant?

Or could British set makers take up tubes in an offset deal? If so, would that effect their contracts with Mullard? One could also well ask if the Government shows Hitachi no go ahead with its factory at Washington new town, near Newcastle upon Tyne, and Mullard makes a deal to supply a third of the initial tube needs, what will be the position in 1984? By then, given that 1980 is Hitachi's first year of production, the Japanese company's subsequent three-year expansion would add to the production, starting at about 70,000 sets initially and rising

biggest slice at about 30 per cent.

Imports from Hitachi, the company recently disclosed, account for some 4 per cent of the United Kingdom set market. Its nearest Japanese rival is Sony, with about 2 per cent. Sony already assembles sets in the United Kingdom.

If a set maker closed it would, of course, mean the loss of jobs. This aspect of the Hitachi affair has attracted the interest of MPs, the TUC and individual trade unions, which are showing increasing signs of worry at a net adverse employment effect from the Hitachi factory. They represent a strong lobby of which the Government has to take account in reaching a decision on the Washington project.

Also, if Hitachi gets its foothold, the British set makers expect to be forced by increased competitive pressures to buy as cheaply as they can abroad at the expense of contracts with Mullard.

There has been talk of up to 2,000 jobs being put at risk at Mullard by 1980. If this happens, what Mullard would presumably be forced to do would be to close its newest factory at Durham which produces 1,500 people. The future of its Silsonstone plant in Lancashire, which produces a variety of components seems more assured, with tooling up taking place for a limited production run of the less compact but cheaper 90 degree tubes still favoured by many United Kingdom set makers.

On the other hand, if the Washington factory did not go ahead, the Radio Industry Council sees no hindrance to a developing plan for the British set makers to buy between 60 and 65 per cent of their tube requirements from Mullard. It has been estimated that this should allow Mullard, at present producing about 1,100,000 tubes a year, to trade at a profitable level. Break-even for Mullard has been put at 1.5 million tubes a year.

The set makers would buy Mullard tubes at the expense of present imports, mainly

from Japan and the United States.

A new study of the Hitachi project by the industry standing committee of the Tory Bow Group, includes some conclusions that echo those of Mr Akerman. The committee makes the point that a plant manufacturing only 100,000 sets a year would appear to fly in the face of commercial logic, particularly as a range of different screen sizes and chassis would be involved.

Hitachi's aim, the committee suggests, might therefore be to integrate the United Kingdom plant into its overall production, including in-house production of components, so as to enhance its competitiveness. The committee thinks it possible that Hitachi would use Finnish tubes, the cheapest in Europe, to disrupt both the British set makers and the components industry, at first undermining the tube industry and eventually destroying it.

With the supply of a key component—tubes, accounting for about half of bought-in component costs and up to 30 per cent of the ex-factory price of a set—in the hands of an overseas competitor, the long-term survival of the British set-making industry would be seriously threatened,

the committee suggested. The Bow Group, which favoured a go-ahead for Hitachi with safeguards, reached its decision only partly because it was predictably against protectionism. With Europe clearly the next target for the Japanese after scooping so much of the United States market in a savage price war, Hitachi, it could not find a European base in Britain, would presumably go to West Germany. This would be the next best option as far as a large base market was concerned, the committee pointed out, but the British industry would still suffer.

Other tactical considerations aside, this is the cardinal argument for allowing the Japanese to base themselves in Britain, thus at least getting the benefit of their investment and the jobs it would produce—unless, of course, there were overall EEC action to avoid the extent of the penetration suffered in the United States market, at least until the Japanese showed greater willingness to let in European exports.

That could be the next hand but one in this seemingly interminable poker game. "Japanese Investment or Trade Protection? Bow Publications, 40p.



An example of a Japanese plant at work in Britain: a Sony engineer and Welsh worker at the company's Bridgend, South Wales factory.

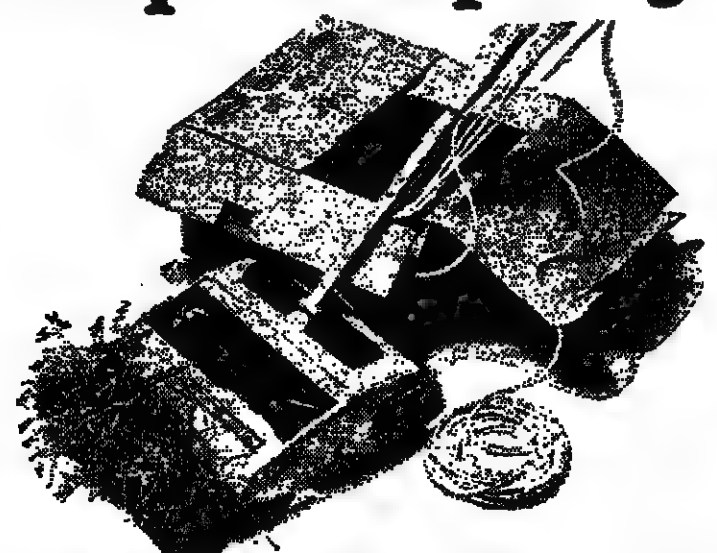
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Business Diary: Elderfield ahoy • Trade-a-secret

British Shipbuilders has at last found itself a finance man, Maurice Elderfield, finance director of Ferranti, to serve as a full-time member of the board. Elderfield takes up his new job on December 1, leaving the only full-time post at the state body, that of personnel member, to be filled.

It will be recalled that the mass resignations of executive members of the organizing committee of British Shipbuilders last winter, sparked off by the departure of Graham Day, the chief executive designate, left the Department of Industry with the task of scouting around for new talent.

Elderfield has now accepted the job that would have gone to Pat Griffith, full-time finance director of the organizing committee and one of three executives who resigned in January largely as the result of frustration over delays in setting the state shipbuilding concern off the ground.

The new man, who is 51, should prove to be well qualified to oversee the financial aspects of a nationalized industry. His previous posts with Forrester, Land, Timber and Railway Company and the Stephens Group but in 1960 he began a 13-year stint with the South Eastern Gas Board rising to board member and director of finance.

For the next two years he was director of finance for the Southern Water Authority and since 1975 has been member for finance followed by his present job at the NEB-controlled Ferranti.

Ferranti by Harry Kirkham, who has been with the group for at least 20 years and is presently the company accountant. We asked what Elderfield's salary would be, but nobody in the state corporation would tell us. Open government, you know.

American government officials and businessmen in the United States have been complaining loudly for a long time that the Japanese have devised all manner of methods to keep out American goods.

So loud have these cries grown that the Japanese have decided to reveal a few trade secrets.

The United States and Japanese governments have agreed to create a "US-Japan Trade Facilitation Committee" to teach Americans how to sell to Japan.

Moreover, the Japanese are going to help the Americans to make their export promotion programmes more effective by studying ways of changing the Japanese distribution and sales system. According to American authorities the plan is designed to explore "ways to reduce or eliminate specific difficulties United States firms encounter with Japanese trade practices and procedures".

JOIN THE ARMY
LEARN A TRADE AS
FIREMAN
POWER WORKER
MINER
LIFT ATTENDANT
ETC., ETC.

this new effort will have proved itself indeed.

No prizes for guessing what share Barclays Unicorn has just added to the portfolio of its mythical Unicorn Jubilee unit trust. (Clue: Princess Anne went home from hospital yesterday.) For the benefit of republicans, the answer is Mothercare.

The fund, "launched" on February 6, anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne, is made up of shares with regal sounding names. The list includes Coronation Syndicate, Court Brothers, Greene King, Imperial Group, Prince of Wales Hotel, and Royal Sovereign Pencil to name but a random few.

And guess what? It has done remarkably well. Twelve of the 17 shares have risen and the overall gain is 54 per cent compared with a rise of 22 per cent in the FT Ordinary share index. Royalties and republicans alike can be forgiven for wishing the fund was real.

My quest for long-winded company names has prompted a response from John Edwards, chief of the Certification Office for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations (which verges on the verbose itself).

He can't help with any more companies, but kindly offers these two beauties from the statutory list kept by his office. On the employers' association side there is the magnificent "Essex and Hertfordshire Representative Provincial Organization of Local Authority Employers for Administrative, Professional, Technical and Clerical Services and Manual Worker Services".

The trade unions are not to be outdone by the employers, however, and spring back with the shorter and by no means negligible "Leicestershire, Rutland, Northampton, Bedford, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Leicestershire Friendly, Relief, Sick, Superannuation and Burial Society".

Former SS colonels may not be so welcome outside West

Germany, but the same cannot be said of some other products of the Nazi era.

American scientists are now trying to unearth the processes by which the Germans converted coal into synthetic oil and oil products. Before the war, the Germans imported about 85 per cent of their oil; by the end they were making three quarters of their fuel synthetically.

The American team, Kurt Igolic, Arnold Krammer and Richard Waingard, have told a subcommittee of the House of Representatives that even if they crack the secret, the conversion would only be a stop-gap until nuclear and solar energy sources were better developed.

These are hard times for the construction industry but not, according to some of the things on show at the Interbuild Exhibition, for everybody else. Among the eight miles of goodies at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, is a £9,500 bed (with built-in refrigerator, television, coffee machine and hi-fi). There is also a £2,500 cooker. This doesn't have a built-in bed, but it does have a computer which stores more than 100 mouth-watering recipes to register rather more realistic. There is a special selection of appliances powered by sun, wind or water. No less realistic is an offer of a week in Greece for two from the National Council of Building Material Producers for anyone who comes up with a slogan that will help revive the construction industry.

Former SS colonels may not be so welcome outside West

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

by E. L.

PUBLIC

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

100


CANNON ASSURANCE
SHARE EXCHANGE SCHEME

appear on
page 2

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1990

Careers in Management

Training in the middle

As a species the "middle manager" in British industry and commerce is among the most difficult to define. It is largely dependent on the degree of enlightenment shown by his employers whether he plays a genuinely effective management role or becomes the buffer between the shopfloor and the boardroom.

Happily, the majority of British employers are now enlightened enough to realize that to allow any link between them and their workers to develop into one in which a degree of distrust and ineffectiveness appears is both unproductive and a gross misuse of personnel.

The middle manager has, therefore, developed into one of the most vital elements in industry and one in which an increasingly sophisticated selection and training process is being applied.

Formal qualifications are now more important, but this is still the area of management where a high degree of practical skill and experience of production and working techniques are necessary. Consequently, the skilled shopfloor worker with in-job management training is still regarded by many in the recruitment field as the ideal middle manager.

The most popular post-graduate qualification in Britain, and the one with which the aspirant to middle management status should be armed, is the Diploma in Management Studies (DMS). Courses leading to the DMS are the main activity in the management education departments of over 50 centres of further and higher education throughout Britain and since the diploma was introduced in 1961 over 10,000 students joined it.

The DMS is now the mainstay of management education, being based on the

programme originally drawn up by the British Institute of Management when it was an examining body. The course is designed to provide students with a basic knowledge of commerce and industry; to raise their general level of understanding of management processes; and to bring them up to date with the tools and techniques of successful management.

The most attractive feature of the DMS course is its flexibility. Studies can be on a full-time, sandwich, block-release or part-time basis. It can be taken either as a post-graduate or a post-experience course, and is, therefore, equally relevant to a young graduate starting a career in management or to an older person desiring to be brought up to date.

Another attractive aspect of the DMS course, and one which makes it particularly applicable to the middle management sector, is that although correctly regarded as a post-graduate course, roughly half of the people who have so far qualified for a DMS are not graduates.

Many are holders of professional qualifications, but a significant number have no formal higher educational qualifications. Other highly respected qualifications for managers are those awarded by the Institution of Works Managers. The title "works manager" is slightly misleading as the Institute's membership comes from a wide range of industry and commerce.

Based in Luton, the Institute offers qualifications at three levels: the Certificate in Industrial Management, the Diploma in Industrial Management and an Advanced Diploma in Industrial Management. Candidates can take the examinations in sequence or, depending on previous relevant qualifications,

David Young

THE POLICE GRADUATE ENTRY SCHEME

The police have an increasing need for highly qualified men and women. There are two ways of entering — by normal application at any time of the year or through a special entry scheme. What follows gives you a basic outline of how the special entry scheme works and an opportunity to acquire more detailed information.

What are the advantages of the special entry scheme?

Under the special entry scheme, you can offer yourself, even before joining the police, for selection for the Special Course at the Police College, Bramshill. This course is for officers considered to have the potential for accelerated promotion to the rank of inspector and beyond.

Who can apply?

Any graduate or undergraduate in the final year of a full time degree course up to the age of 30 may apply. Any University or CNA degree is acceptable.

Closing dates for 1978 interviews for the special entry scheme are: 30th January for all forces except Metropolitan Police (9th January for the Metropolitan Police).

Enquiries about ordinary entry for graduates can be made at any time.

Can a police career make full use of a university education?

The intellectual challenges of police work are considerable. Your ability and

potential will be used to the full in combating the increasingly complex problems which today's society poses for the police. You will find the work demanding, satisfying and rewarding. A real challenge.

Like to find out more?

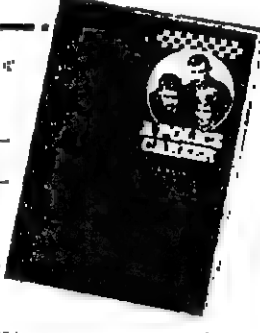
Police starting pay is £2,400 p.a. (£2,749 in London). Inspectors start at £3,960 (£4,340 in London) a year, basic salary. This is a 3% supplement of 5% of total earnings subject to a maximum of £4 per week. Agreement has been reached on a further increase of 10% from 1st September, 1977. The top of the police officers' pay scale is £10,000 p.a. (including allowances). The current maximum of which ranges from £408 to £1,177 (half for single officers a year depending on area). For more information, please send off the coupon to: Supp. David Young, Room 356, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1W 9AT or ask for the Graduate Liaison Officer at the Headquarters of the Police Force of your choice.

Please send me your new booklet and literature on the opportunities for graduates in the police service.

Name (Mr./Mrs./Miss) _____

Address _____

Degree/Course _____



GR44

THE FEDERATION OF CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS

The Federation, the employers' organisation which represents civil engineering contractors in dealings with Government departments, trade unions and other organisations, is seeking three specialists to join its team of officials in London, as follows:—

1. ECONOMIST/STATISTICIAN

To report to the Director, Economic Affairs on economic trends affecting the industry. Work will include the preparation and presentation of information on construction and allied affairs. Knowledge of statistical sources, ability to interpret figures, direct and indirect, and to write reports essential. Experience in committee work desirable. This post could extend into Federation activities outside general economic affairs in providing a service to members. Ability to mix at all levels is therefore essential.

2. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

This appointment is as Assistant to the Director, Industrial Relations Affairs, who is also Employers' Secretary of the Civil Engineering Contractors Conciliation Board. The work includes advising members on questions arising from industrial law and the national agreement on wages, conditions, arranging meetings of the industry's conciliation machinery and drafting reports to Congress and other papers. Some involvement in industrial relations training may arise. Age 24-30.

3. PUBLIC RELATIONS/EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

An Assistant to the Director of External Affairs to be primarily concerned with promoting the image of the industry, the contribution which free enterprise construction makes to the economy and the welfare of the nation, to generate interest in current affairs and a proven, well developed ability to express ideas in a lively and original manner through the media. Probable appointments require well-developed, written and spoken communication skills. The ability to analyse information and produce clear and concise reports and other papers is essential, as is the application needed to complete tasks on time, sometimes under pressure. Salaries offered will be in the range £3,000 to £5,000, depending on qualifications, age and experience. Candidates should be educated to degree level or equivalent. Directly related experience and/or knowledge of the construction industry is desirable.

Write giving details of age, education, qualifications and experience to:—

The General Secretary, The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, Romney House, Tufon Street, London SW1P 3DU.

THE BRITISH LIBRARY Automated Information Service

These London posts are in small teams involved in the following areas:

Marketing

concerns promotional activity, customer liaison and enquiries. Senior Research Assistant and Research Assistant appointments.

User Education and Training

concerns user training and documentation. Research Assistant appointment.

Market Research and Planning

concerns the collection and analysis of data, the planning of new services including studies of library requirements and market research activity in support of marketing staff. Senior Research Assistant and Research Assistant appointments.

Candidates should normally have a degree, or a qualification in Librarianship or Information Science, or specially relevant experience. Experience of automated library or information services including MARC or MEDLARS and on-line services advantageous.

Salary: GRA (minimum age 28) starting salary between £5,170 and £5,765. RA I £4,230-£5,440 or RA II £3,070-£4,510; level of appointment and starting salary according to age, qualifications and experience. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 3 December, 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Alconon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 58551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote G/9556.



GROUP ACCOUNTANT/ CASH CONTROL

International investment and trading group requires to work in its new small U.K. management services office a Group Accountant with Company Secretary experience (a chartered secretary with group accountant experience would be considered). The task involves preparation, installation and operation of an initially small scale international and flexible group accounting cash control and management information system. Some experience of property management an advantage. Park Lane location. Preferred age 35/50. Salary negotiable between £5,000/£6,000. Apply to Mr. A. Baldwin. Telephone 499 9986.

Accountant/Bookkeeper, WC2

Friendly firm of Architects in pleasant office, requires capable accountant/bookkeeper with experience of balance sheet, knowledge of P.A.V.E., V.A.T. and computer input. The person should be flexible and a good administrator. Age group approximately 25-35. Salary £3,000 negotiable. PHONE 438 4581.

SOLICITOR

NEWLY QUALIFIED

As an assistant legal adviser to a petrochemical company, dealing with all legal matters relating to oil and gas exploration. Based London, S.W.1. Salary c. £5,500 p.a. with excellent prospects. Contact Gary Turner, S & W Services, 28a High St, Hounslow, Middx. 01-872 7353. (Recruitment Co.)

CAREER IN FLEET STREET YOUNG SALESPERSON

Required to join the London Advertisement Dept. of News Group Newspapers, publishers of The Sun and News of the World, Britain's best read Sunday newspapers. Excellent opportunities exist for enthusiastic young men and women, living in the London area, to become salesmen selling to Advertising Agencies and media companies. Applicants should be able to demonstrate a personal need to succeed, exercising their own abilities within a satisfying environment. If you have had some previous selling experience and think you have the talent to develop a high remuneration with a very successful company, call or write to: Michael Moore, Advertisement Manager, NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD., 20 Sovereign Street, London E.C.4. Telephone 363 3030 ext. 581, 586.

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

ASSISTANT FINANCE OFFICER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the post of Assistant Finance Officer in the Finance Office, Warwick University. Salary scale £5,422-£6,422 p.a. (under review).

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from the Secretary and Registrar, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL. Closing date for receipt of applications 9th December.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HOTEL

Conference manager/age 25-30, hotel trained in conference/entertaining work, with 5 years experience in a service industry with direct customer contact, sought by leading hotel for full time position. Salary £5,422-£6,422 (annual review). Non-contributory pension scheme. Apply to: Secretary, Oxford Diocesan Parsonages Board, Church House, North Hinksey, Oxford, giving names of 2 referees by Wednesday, 30th November, 1977.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY BOOKSHOP MANAGER DESIGNATE

Applications are invited from men or women for this appointment, which subject to a satisfactory probation, will lead to appointment as Manager when the present holder of this post retires in March 1978.

Applicants should be in the 35 to 45 age group, physically fit, with knowledge of the book trade, considerable experience in the field of shop management and staff control and in dealing with customers of many different nationalities.

The salary of the Manager is linked to the Higher Executive Officer scale of the Civil Service, beginning at a point commensurate with age and experience. The salary of the Manager Designate will be negotiable but not less than £4,000.

For full details and application form please write enclosing stamped addressed envelope to the Receiver General, Room 4, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3PA.

COMPANY FORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION

We need a person with a suitable qualification or relevant experience to undertake Company Secretarial work for clients. The job will initially be concerned with statutory books and returns, but will later include formations, liquidations and other work. Age is immaterial but the prospects for a younger person may be excellent. Expected salary range £4,000-£5,000 p.a. but could be higher for exceptional candidate.

Apply to: Harold Watts, Denton Hall and Burgin, 3 Gray's Inn Place, London WC1R 5EA. Tel. 01-242 1212.

Payroll Officer

£4,200 per annum

The Spastics Society, one of the largest voluntary organisations in the U.K., requires a Payroll Officer to supervise 750/800 central payroll (mainly monthly), with two staff.

It is planned to computerise the payroll in 1978 and some experience in payroll computerisation is essential. Experience of a mechanised payroll (MCR 33 used) will be a definite advantage as will some pensions administration experience.

Phone or write with details of career and experience to date to: Anthony O'Flaherty, Chief Personnel Officer, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Tel: 01-635 5620.

OXFORD DIOCESAN PARSONAGES BOARD MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR

Chartered Surveyor (preferably Building Sub-division) with at least 10 years experience since qualification, required to take responsibility for repairs and minor improvements to the Board's 400 parsonage houses throughout the counties of Oxford, Berks, and Bucks. Salary within scale £5,422-£6,422 (annual review).

Non-contributory pension scheme. Apply to: Secretary, Oxford Diocesan Parsonages Board, Church House, North Hinksey, Oxford, giving names of 2 referees by Wednesday, 30th November, 1977.

We need teachers who can remain calm under fire as well as in the classroom.

It's a tall order, we know.

But then, we're not merely offering you a change of schools.

In the Army, you'll teach young recruits and experienced soldiers who wish to qualify as tradesmen.

You'll coach Officers who have to pass examinations for promotion and for entry to the Staff College.

You may well teach abroad, perhaps with British troops, or Gurkhas or locally enlisted soldiers in Hong Kong.

This makes you as important as any of our other Officers.

You'll have the same status, the same opportunities for promotion, the same levels of pay.

We think it only fair, therefore, that you should prove yourself their equal as an Officer.

Six months at Sandhurst will give you the chance.

Although it won't be your main concern, you'll have to prove that you can lead men and, if it comes to the crunch, carry out operational duties.

After Sandhurst and a spell at the RAEC's own training centre, you'll take up your first teaching post.

Your starting salary, depending on your qualifications, will be between £3,197 and £4,641, back dated to the day you joined.

If you decide to leave after three years' commissioned service, you'll get a tax-free gratuity of £1,545.

As to your qualifications, the main thing is that you should be a graduate or at least a qualified teacher.

Incidentally, throughout your period of service, you'll be given every opportunity to improve your own professional qualifications, possibly up to post-graduate level.

Assuming you're fit and under 29, you can take a tentative step in our direction by spending three days at our headquarters or a day at any Army Education Centre. Either way, you'll be under no obligation.

Entry normally takes place in January and July and you are advised to apply at least six months in advance. For further details write to: Captain G. C. Taylor, M.A., RAEC, Ministry of Defence (A Ed 1), Dept D17, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, SW11 1TR.

Army Officer

Your Accounting Skills and Housing Finance

In your 20s with sound financial experience and enthusiasm for projects providing housing for those most in need? You could soon be helping the Housing Corporation finance housing associations which are providing 30,000 new and improved homes annually.

We need a Financial Assistant in our London Regional Office who will principally be concerned with monitoring the financial affairs of housing associations and evaluating their performance.

Excellent conditions include a superannuation scheme, transferable within the public sector. Salary £3,553-£4,663 (negotiable).

If you are part way through professional studies or have a relevant degree/diploma, write with details of yourself and your career to:

Graham Howard, Management Services Division, The Housing Corporation, Maple House, 149 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0BN

The Housing Corporation

General Telephone

Area Representatives—London and South East, Midlands and North—£4,750-£5,500

We are looking for intelligent, experienced salesmen and women to sell our range of communication services, including inter-telephone, post-paid, public address, time control and long distance services.

They will be trained to sell our range of communication services, including inter-telephone, post-paid, public address, time control and long distance services.

Naturally, applicants already successful in the outside world will be of interest to us, but a background in sales is not essential. The scope and nature of the work is truly interesting and offers the good opportunity for advancement.

With a good salary and commission, overall earnings should be around £4,750-£5,500 in the first year although much higher figures can be achieved with experience.

Company car and expenses, 3 weeks' paid holiday, London and South East posts would be based in London offices. The Midlands and Northern posts would be based in Birmingham.

Please telephone or write quickly to: D H WARD, Sales Manager, General Telephone Systems Ltd, 44/50, Osnaburgh St. NW1 3NL Tel: 01-388 7241

THE CONTRACTORS' PLANT ASSOCIATION Executive Appointment

The Association represents the construction plant hire industry and wishes to make a further addition to its executive staff, to help strengthen and extend its existing work in the following three areas:—

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: TRAINING: HEALTH & SAFETY

Knowledge of industrial relations in some sector of the construction industries is desirable, with the ability to extend scope of interest across these three areas generally. Opportunity for an intelligent and experienced person of mature personality, able to write and speak lucidly and handle organising, committee and occasional negotiation aspects.

Salary according to experience, abilities and qualifications, with regular reviews. Good working conditions and four weeks annual leave. Preferred age range about 30 to 45. Future prospects in a developing organisation.

Write, in confidence, for further details and brief form of application to: R. C. Sansom, B.Sc.(Eng.), FICE, Director, The Contractors' Plant Association, 28 Eccleston Street, London SW1W 9PY.

EXPERIENCED MEDICAL JOURNALISTS

A leading clinical magazine for General Practitioners requires a graduate in the Biosciences to join a young, enthusiastic editorial team.

Two or three years' experience of medical or biological editing is essential, and candidates must be able to undertake all types of sub-editing and brochure work. Drive and commitment are necessary attributes.

Write with full personal and career details, enclosing some examples of your work to:

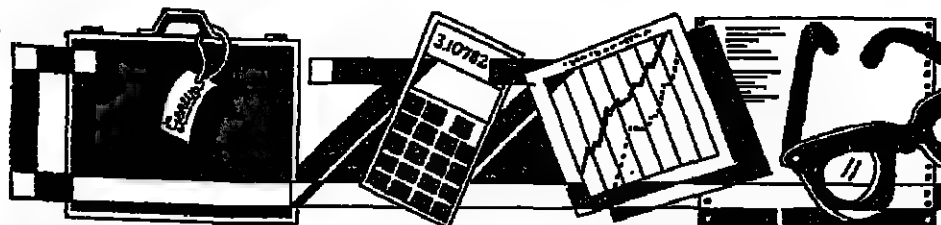
DARRELL H. THORPE, MEDICAL JOURNALIST, HAYMARKET PUBLISHING LTD., 34-42 REGENT ST., LONDON, W1A 4TA.

£6,000 plus

APPOINTMENTS

appear on

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£6,000 plus appointments

Kenya Airways VACANCIES

Kenya Airways invites applications from qualified Boeing 707 Captains, Co-pilots, Engineers and Supervisors:

Captains and Co-Pilots

Captains must have at least 1,000 hr in command on aircraft whose all up weight exceeds 30,000lb with a minimum of 500 hr in command on B707 aircraft. Co-pilots must have at least 2,000 hr airline experience and have a current B707 rating.

Materials Provisioning Engineer

Must have at least ten years' experience in aircraft spares provisioning which must include initial provisioning for new and used aircraft. Extensive experience of provisioning for B707-320 series aircraft is essential. Technical liaison experience in respect of Service Bulletins, Modifications and Heavy Maintenance of B707-320 aircraft is desirable.

Development Engineer—Airframe and Systems

Development Engineer—Powerplant and Systems

Must hold a University degree or a diploma in Engineering or hold 'A' and/or 'C' Licences on B707 and P & W engines. A minimum of 5 years' maintenance and overhaul experience including defect rectification and certification is required. Previous experience in development work is desirable.

Instrument/Electrical Supervisors

Must be an Avionic Engineer holding Electrical and/or Multi-Instruments Licence/Approval valid for Boeing 707-320B aircraft (Category 9.4 and 10.1.3). Preference will be given to candidates holding endorsement for Inertial Navigation Equipment. Successful applicants will have at least six years' experience in Line/Hanger Maintenance.

Remuneration for Captains ranges from UK£14,500 to UK£17,000 per annum and for Co-pilots from UK£7,500 to UK£10,000 per annum. Entry point will depend on qualifications and experience.

Remuneration for Engineers and Supervisors will be the equivalent of between UK£5,700 and UK£7,500 per annum. The starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience.

In addition there will be generous housing, transport and medical benefits. Employment will be on contract terms with a minimum of two years.

Applications giving full personal details and experience should be sent to: Personnel Manager, KENYA AIRWAYS LTD., P.O. Box 19002, Nairobi, Kenya, so as to reach him not later than 9 December, 1977.

The successful applicants will reside in Nairobi, which is a modern city enjoying beautiful climate and with many sporting and social amenities.

THE BRITISH AMATEUR ATHLETIC BOARD

seeks applications for the new post of

General Secretary

at a starting salary in the region of
£8,500 PER ANNUM (Subject to review)

To commence on 1st April, 1978 or as soon as possible thereafter. It is expected that the successful applicant will be in the age range 35-50 years.

Closing date for applications December 5th, 1977.

Further information and application forms are obtainable from:—

The Clerk to the Board

British Amateur Athletic Board,

70 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London SW3 1EE

TRUST INVESTMENT OFFICER

An International Investment Company offers an exciting opportunity to a mature, experienced trust officer to establish a Trust Department within the Company.

The incumbent must be a generalist with experience in placement of funds and portfolio management. He or she may take an active part in managing the Company's liquid assets and will advise the Company's clients on investment strategy for their portfolios. Clients are all foreign nationals.

The successful candidate is likely to have had European Money Market exposure and have been previously employed by an International Bank. A New York Market exposure will be a plus. As maturity and experience are essential, the preferred age range is 30-50 years. Salary commensurate with qualifications.

Interested candidates please submit detailed curriculum vitae to: BOX 0017 K, THE TIMES.

MARKETING MANAGER European Law Publisher

A rapidly expanding publishing company in the field of European Law requires an energetic and imaginative executive to develop and lead an effective marketing team. The successful male or female will have relevant experience and a proven marketing ability and will be willing to travel. Fluency in French and German or other European languages, in addition to English, would be a valuable asset as would some knowledge of law.

The Marketing Manager, directly responsible to the Managing Director, will be based in London and the salary will reflect the importance of this key post.

Please ring for an interview:

Jennifer Roberts,
Thomson Publications Limited,
Elm House, Elm Street,
London WC1X 0BP. Tel. 01-278 2345, extn. 33

Office of Ombudsman for Central Government Director-Investigations

£9,320-£11,670

The Ombudsman (Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration) is responsible for investigating complaints against the administrative actions of central government departments. The current vacancy is for a Director who will have charge of the Division concerned with taxation complaints, and will direct the work of 2 investigation units.

Much of the work will be related to the examination and review of evidence produced by investigating staff and the subsequent preparation of reports and recommendations for the Commissioner. In difficult cases, the Director will lead the investigation personally — interviewing complainants and senior officials.

The main qualities required are the ability to master quickly a great deal of detail and distil from it the facts essential to an understanding of the arguments for and against the complaint under investigation; the penetration necessary to see all aspects of a case and to make a fair and impartial judgement; the ability to condense arguments

with clarity, both orally and in writing.

Candidates (aged at least 40) must be familiar with the machinery of British government and should have an understanding of, and a sympathetic interest in, the 'Ombudsman Institution'. They must also have had considerable senior level experience which may have been gained in one of the professions or in central or local government or in industry or commerce. A qualification in public administration, law, accountancy or taxation would be an advantage.

Salary, starting at £9,320, rises to £11,670. This London-based appointment will be for a period of 3 years initially, and could be on secondment terms.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 8 December 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: A9652.

AUSTRALIA SIR CHARLES GARDNER HOSPITAL THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II MEDICAL CENTRE NEDLANDS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

A Clinical Psychologist is required by the Sir Charles Gardner Hospital, in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Science. The hospital, which is one of the major teaching hospitals of the University of Western Australia, has a reputation for excellence in the field of clinical psychology and psychiatry. The successful candidate will be responsible for the clinical and research work of the department, and will also be involved in the teaching and supervision of students and staff.

Applicants should possess a degree in Psychology and postgraduate qualifications in Clinical Psychology. They should also have a minimum of five years' experience in the field of clinical psychology.

Salary: Level 11, £11,000-£12,000 per annum (approximately equivalent to Level 11, £11,000-£12,000 per annum).

Points of consideration: dependent upon qualifications and experience.

Conditions of service, including travel allowance to the successful applicant, as detailed in the Memorandum of Information, available on request.

Applications should be sent to the Director of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, Sir Charles Gardner Hospital, Nedlands, Western Australia, 6009.

The successful applicant will be required to undertake a period of probationary service for a period of six months.

For further information, please contact the Director of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, Sir Charles Gardner Hospital, Nedlands, Western Australia, 6009.

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Applications should be sent to the Director of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, Sir Charles Gardner Hospital, Nedlands, Western Australia, 6009.

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In the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division), Central London County Court, in the Matter of the Trusts of the will of ETHEL MAUD PARSONS deceased. Pursuant to the Trusts of the will of ETHEL MAUD PARSONS deceased, the said ETHEL MAUD PARSONS, who died on the 11th day of November 1975 (and to whose estate Letters of Administration were granted to Dorothy May Parson, the Administratrix (deceased) named on the 16th day of September 1977) is required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of January 1978 after which the said Administratrix will proceed to distribute the assets having regard to the claims thereto notified.

Dated the 14th day of November 1977.

PHILIP GRAY & CO., 77

Beckham High Street, SE15, London, The said Administratrix.

NOTE:—Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said

particulars must serve on or send by post to the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do.

The notice must state the name and address of the person, or if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person, or if a firm, by its or their solicitor (if any) and must be served on or sent by post to the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do.

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LEGAL NOTICES

In the Estate of ETHEL MAUD PARSONS deceased. Pursuant to the Trusts of the will of ETHEL MAUD PARSONS deceased, the said ETHEL MAUD PARSONS, who died on the 11th day of November 1975 (and to whose estate Letters of Administration were granted to Dorothy May Parson, the Administratrix (deceased) named on the 16th day of September 1977) is required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of January 1978 after which the said Administratrix will proceed to distribute the assets having regard to the claims thereto notified.

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Broadcasting

Those of us who are failures at every sport or game find it remarkable enough that champions exist at all. To find that they are also very good at all sorts of other feats, besides their speciality, is depressing. The Superstars indeed. Richard Briers meets a mule in Spain in The Other One tonight. Predictable, and hilarious. Meanwhile I continue to be in a minority of one, it seems, in my view of Love for Lydia... perhaps because it compares so badly with the stronger Upstairs, Downstairs later (11.40, ITV).—I.R.R.

BBC 1
 10.45-11.05 am, You and Me.
 11.15-11.30 am, News.
 11.35-11.50 am, Barnaby.
 12.15-12.30 pm, Dax.
 12.35-12.50 pm, News.
 1.00-1.15 pm, The Record Breakers.
 1.20-1.35 pm, News.
 1.40-1.55 pm, The Other One.
 2.00-2.15 pm, News.
 2.20-2.35 pm, Cannon.
 2.40-2.55 pm, The Other One.
 3.00-3.15 pm, News.
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 10.40-10.55 pm, The Other One.
 11.00-11.15 pm, News.
 11.20-11.35 pm, Cannon.
 11.40-11.55 pm, The Other One.

BBC 2
 11.00-11.15 am, Play School.
 11.20-11.35 am, News.
 11.40-11.55 am, Barnaby.
 12.15-12.30 pm, Dax.
 12.35-12.50 pm, News.
 1.00-1.15 pm, The Record Breakers.
 1.20-1.35 pm, News.
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BBC 3
 11.00-11.15 am, Play School.
 11.20-11.35 am, News.
 11.40-11.55 am, Barnaby.
 12.15-12.30 pm, Dax.
 12.35-12.50 pm, News.
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 11.40-11.55 pm, The Other One.

BBC 4
 11.00-11.15 am, Play School.
 11.20-11.35 am, News.
 11.40-11.55 am, Barnaby.
 12.15-12.30 pm, Dax.
 12.35-12.50 pm, News.
 1.00-1.15 pm, The Record Breakers.
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BBC 5
 11.00-11.15 am, Play School.
 11.20-11.35 am, News.
 11.40-11.55 am, Barnaby.
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BBC 6
 11.00-11.15 am, Play School.
 11.20-11.35 am, News.
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 12.15-12.30 pm, Dax.
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FOCUS ON OMAN

*Oil revenues... farming... minerals
irrigation... education... sport*

Chequered progress of a Rip Van Winkle

by Christopher Walker

Seven years ago Oman was a country shrouded in a deceptive mystique whose estimated one million inhabitants were forbidden to study, play music, smoke, wear sunglasses or even move in and out of their walled capital of Muscat after dark.

Deliberately kept in ignorance about life in the outside world, East or West, they were ruled by an eccentric, penny-pinching and reclusive Sultan whose only contact with all but a handful of sycophantic courtiers was made by radio telephone.

On July 23, 1970 the country was suddenly transformed when the present ruler, Sultan Qaboos bin Said (the fourteenth in the dynasty), deposed his reactionary father and persuaded him to leave for London, to live out the remaining two years of his life in the Dorchester hotel.

The ensuing period in the history of Oman has been one of remarkable, if sometimes chequered, progress, but bedevilled until two years ago by a vicious and debilitating war against Marxist guerrillas fighting in the semi-desert southern region of Dhofar.

Inevitably the necessity of moving almost overnight from medieval to modern times brought difficulties, including those of financial management, but many have been overcome.

Those that remain depend to a large extent on the unanswered question of how long the limited reserves of crude oil can continue to finance economic and social progress. So far despite the progress, no sign of internal political dissent is permitted against a system of government which makes little allowance for popular participation.

Although the so-called secret war against the Cuban-trained guerrillas of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO) was officially declared won in December, 1975, the fear of communist aggression combined with a firm belief in the domino theory continues to colour the Sultan's thinking.

Estimates for the 1977 budget show that although defence spending has dropped slightly from the war years, it still accounts for almost 40 per cent of the total planned expenditure for the year of 770m rials. Senior government advisers expect the level to be maintained in the immediate future.

Much of the money has been allocated to an advanced ground-to-air missile system and Anglo-French Jaguar strike aircraft, the fifth of which was delivered in September. Dominating the southern gateway to the Gulf, Oman is conscious of the strategic importance of the narrow Strait of Hormuz and also of the war between Ethiopia and Somalia, which it is feared could increase Russian influence in the Red Sea. Close military links were forged with Iran during the secret war. The final defeat of the PFLO won the Sultan considerable prestige in the Arab world.

In the south of the country considerable energy and expense has been devoted to bolstering resistance to any resurgence of PFLO activity. The policy has centred on a heart-and-minds campaign, backed by a build-up in the Loyal Piquet Forces, a tribal home guard of 3,100 men paid to police the hills and rout out the 40 or so rebels believed still to be active inside Oman.

Hopes earlier in the year that relations with the neighbouring People's Democratic Republic of Yemen might improve were dashed last month in a bitter series of exchanges between representatives of the two ideologically opposed



Edith Dorsey Raff seek schooling abroad.

*communications... conservation...
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governments at the United Nations.

Now an established member of both the United Nations and the Arab League, although not of Opec, Oman has devoted considerable attention to balancing its desire to play an international role with the acknowledged gaps in its embryonic economy.

Most of them were the legacy of the last Sultan, and have resulted in capital expenditure on a scale which has been maintained only by soft loans and grants from friendly Arab neighbours, notably Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi.

In 1970, Oman had only three schools, teaching a total of 909 pupils, no international airport, no seaport, one hotel, and five kilometres of paved road for its 800 car owners.

Today cars and taxis number 22,000, international airports have been built in the north and south of the country, two modern ports are in operation, sufficient hotel rooms exist for visiting businessmen and the number of children attending school this year will top 70,000.

As yet only three Omani schools have reached secondary level, and there are no plans for a university, but the access to education (largely supplied by expatriate teachers from Egypt and Jordan) exceeds the expectations of most of the population.

It is still common to encounter Omanis who have returned from voluntary exile after escaping the old regime by making the hazardous journey by donkey to now the focus for oil exploration teams, its successful integration with the rest of the country will be found in 10 fields, spread throughout the country, has been the main provider along this modernization to take place. So it is perhaps no surprise that its future should remain the most politically sensitive topic inside Oman.

The present rate of production of 335,000 barrels a day is already down on the peak achieved in 1976, and expatriate oilmen emphasize the rising costs caused by the need to fly in teams of outside experts to cope with extraction difficulties. They also say that the geological structure of the country makes the likelihood of big new finds negligible.

For its part, the Omani Government explains that allowance for a gradual decline has been made in the five-year plan published last year, and points to strenuous efforts being made to diversify the economy and build up other income-generating industries, including copper, gas, fisheries and agriculture. Heartened by a new drilling project in Dhofar which will be producing an extra 30,000 barrels a day by 1980, senior government officials argue that the oil company executives are unduly pessimistic.

In many ways it is the remote and picturesque southern region of Dhufar which holds the key to Oman's future. Rich in untapped tourist potential, newly liberated from the stranglehold of extreme left-wing guerrilla forces and arduous journey by donkey to now the focus for oil exploration teams, its successful integration with the rest of the country will be found in 10 fields, spread throughout the country, has been the main provider along this modernization to take place. So it is perhaps no surprise that its future should remain the most politically sensitive topic inside Oman.

One of the oldest independent Arab states, Oman has a rich history and a cultural tradition which belies its recent isolation, poverty and backwardness. Its links with Britain stretch back to 1798, and even today its 20,000-strong army, navy and air force rely significantly on the 625 present and former members of the British services.

Some 200 of those officers and NCOs are on loan, and the rest are ex-members now employed on contract for the Omani Government. Their presence is a constant source of irritation to Oman's enemies, and the daily barrage of hostile propaganda from Radio Aden scathingly refers to them as "mercenaries" and "agents".

In addition, an estimated 5,000 British expatriates live and work in Oman, many enjoying tax-free salaries more than double those they could expect at home. Although the country has a rigidly conservative Islamic tradition, life for foreign workers is considerably more relaxed than its richer northern neighbours. Drink is freely available in hotel bars and expatriate women are able to wear western style clothes without trouble.

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FOCUS ON

THE ECONOMY, FOREIGN RELATIONS AND FINANCE

Discipline brings better reputation

by John Whelan

Control is a word often used in Oman in connection with the economy. Today, in other Gulf states this would be called stagnation or recession. By contrast the Omanis appear to have learnt the lessons of a sharp financial crisis in 1974 when the economy became overheated. The control which is helping to make Oman a good word again in banking circles is expressed in a five-year development plan covering government expenditure till 1980. The difference between this plan and the development plans of certain other Gulf states is that government ministries are cutting their spending to fit the targets defined in the plan. Some of the credit for this belongs to the Deputy Chairman of the seven-man Development Council, Qais Abdul Munim Al-Zawawi, who has been largely responsible for translating the Sultan's call for restraint into practical reality.

The effect of the new discipline on the expansion of credit has been apparent. Credit rose from 6.5m rials (£2.25m) in 1972 to 65m rials (£22.5m) in 1974. Credit has continued to accelerate but the upward trend has been less pronounced. There was a rise from 123m rials (£42.5m) at the end of 1976 to 153m rials (£52.8m) in August 1977. Government borrowings actually declined from 89m rials (£30.75m) at the end of last year to 54.7m rials (£18.9m) in August.

Imports grew marginally in 1976 over the previous year, from 361.4m rials (£124.5m) to 380.5m rials (£131.5m). There is every sign that this trend will continue, together with the wider slow down of trade in the oil-rich Gulf. Economic activity is reflected in the fall in cement imports, which were about 7 per cent down in 1976 compared with 1975.

This year's working budget deficit is estimated conservatively at 56m rials (£19.35m) which is an improvement on the 1976 operational deficit of 68.5m rials (£23.6m). The snag is that once again repayment of loans and interest will add another 30m rials (£10.37m), bringing this over the 100m rials (£34.5m) mark.

The hope must be that renewed oil exploration will be successful. A concession agreement was signed in October covering a 64,000 sq km area in the Dhofar province. British Petroleum, AGIP of Italy and Deutsche

Erdoel - Versorgungsgesellschaft of West Germany will spend £21.7m seeking oil. The five-year plan actually takes account of dwindling revenues from oil, which is a sign that the Omanis are not banking on oil in the sky. Oil produced 454.7m rials (£157.15m) in 1976 but this is expected to fall to 425m rials (£146m) by 1980.

From the inception of the plan Zawawi and the Sultan have seen as one answer soft loans from Arab states, together with direct grants and a strictly limited amount of direct borrowing. Loans and grants are envisaged as being a declining form of deficit bridging during the five-year plan, though two key projects are receiving foreign aid.

The Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development is helping to finance a 17.22m sq km gas pipeline linking the natural gas fields with Ghubra on the coast. The pipeline will generate power for important secondary industries.

More important still was the Saudi grant of £55.55m towards a copper mining project at Sohar. The Saudis have also provided £52.78m for road construction and building schemes in the Dhofar province.

Zawawi is also committed to the encouragement of joint ventures, though this is restrained by the Government's concern to keep the Omani economy in the hands of Omanis. In a state which has successfully emerged from a costly counter-insurgency operation the lesson about allowing too much foreign control is all too clear. The investment law has been amended by a government decree requiring 150,000 rials (£51,840) minimum capital for local companies established with foreign participation. The aim of this is to encourage inflow of capital and keep smaller enterprises in Omani hands.

Foreign companies have also been restricted from building homes for their own employees to stimulate rentals. By the end of 1976 94.5 per cent of all companies in Oman were entirely Omani owned, though the four biggest in terms of paid-up capital were still entirely foreign owned.

Much turns on the ability of the Government to curb spending. National security, though envisaged as a declining element in the budget, is still expected to total 97.1m rials (£33.58m) during the five-year plan. It is the largest single item of spending though it does reflect an element of civil expenditure, largely on housing for members of the defence forces and their families.

Of all the Arab leaders only King Hussein of Jordan came forward with military aid. Otherwise it was left to the Shah of Iran to seize on the potential threat from the PFLP to his own "juggler" - the tanker route through the Strait of Hormuz. The Shah's troops to aid the Sultan and the Sultan's forces in 1974.

Ironically, the very success of that intervention leading directly to the end of the war 18 months ago, threatened temporarily to deepen Oman's isolation from the Arab world by rousing new suspicions of Iranian "imperialism" - especially in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states.

But Saudi-Iranian cooperation in OPEC helped to over-

Widening the horizons

by David Holden

Like many other aspects of Oman's life, the foreign policies of the sultanate were dominated until recently by reaction to the Marxist rebellion in Dhofar. As long as the insurrection there remained a considerable threat to the Sultan's rule the only foreign relations that really mattered to him were those with other powers that were prepared to help in its suppression. But now that the war is over a subtler approach to the world has been adopted.

The main evidence of this is slow but significant widening of Oman's regional horizons, especially in the Arab world. In modern times until 1970, when Sultan Qaboos came to power, Oman had no effective relations with any foreign power except Britain. For nearly two centuries it had been under de facto British protection, turning its back upon the Arab world as it pursued its seaborne trade with India and East Africa.

Under the present Sultan's father the British connexion was deliberately strengthened to the exclusion of all else as he strove to preserve the country from the impact of modern nationalism.

As a result, the Dhofar war found the country totally dependent on British military and civilian aid and Sultan Qaboos was hamstrung after depositing his father in a palace coup, by the widespread suspicion of fellow-Arabs that he, too, was no more than a British stooge.

Throughout the Dhofar war, Arab reluctance to be associated with British military action proved inhibiting even when it was clearly established that the rebellion had fallen under Marxist control through the leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO), directed and assisted by the Government of the PDRY (South Yemen), with Russian, East German and Cuban assistance.

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But Saudi-Iranian cooperation in OPEC helped to over-

come that strain and soon the Saudi leadership began to apply some of its massive new oil revenues to the task of buying off the PDRY's support of the Dhofar rebels with promises of much-needed financial aid to Aden.

When the war ended, therefore, Oman was already starting to move out of its old isolation. Now, as the focus of internal attention shifts from Dhofar to more general defence problems and long-term civil development throughout the country, the process is accelerating. First to be affected is the old alliance with Britain which is being slowly diluted.

Most of the impetus for this change actually comes from the British Government, anxious to reduce one of its last significant military commitments outside Europe.

With Iran relations are less deeply established; and since the Shah withdrew the last of his 3,000 soldiers in March they have settled down into what might be called a state of grateful cordiality. The scepticism of the PDRY, on the other hand, Oman's relations with its Arab neighbours are growing closer as its dependence on non-Arab partners diminishes.

Kuwait, which remained neutral about Oman until the Dhofar war was over, has provided civil aid in Dhofar and placed \$25m on deposit at the Oman central bank. Iraq, for long one of the PFLO's supporters, has exchanged ambassadors, and Sheikh Zayed, President of the United Arab Emirates, has paid a state visit to Oman and contributed financial aid.

Far more important are the growing links with the Saudis. Grants from Riyadh of more than £50m for civil development were announced in July and a similar amount has been supplied for establishing a copper smelter in northern Oman. In addition, the Saudis are believed to have given about £140m to buy a new air defence system from Britain. In exchange there is fresh speculation that the Saudis may now want to build a new oil pipeline from their southern oilfields to a terminal on Oman's Indian Ocean coastline.

When the British pulled out of Masirah in the spring there were instant rumours circulated especially from Aden, Moscow and other left-wing capitals - that the Americans were about to move in, to use the airfield as a back-up base for Diego Garcia in their surveillance of the Indian Ocean. This would presumably have balanced the Soviet position in Aden. But the Sultan strenuously denies any such prospect, while admitting that he will certainly allow friendly powers to use Masirah occasionally if they so request.

Oil and politics behind banks' growth

by Michael Prest

Banking in Oman has counterpoised the country's economic and political development. When the present ruler, Sultan Qaboos, overthrew his father in 1970, Oman had only three banks: the ubiquitous British Bank of the Middle East, which had opened in 1948, the Eastern Bank (now Chartered), and the Ottoman Bank (now Grindlays). The Eastern and Ottoman banks had opened in 1968 and 1969 respectively.

Today Oman has 19 banks with another licensed and likely to open this year. Five of the operating banks are locally incorporated (as is the licence-holder), and between them control 95 per cent of the assets. The list includes several well-known international banks, but also has a strong Gulf flavour.

This rapid growth is due partly to government policy and partly to the Gulf boom of the past few years, in which Oman as a small oil producer has participated. Government policy originated with the formation of the Muscat Currency Authority in 1970, succeeded two years later by the Oman Currency Board. Both were managed by the British Bank of the Middle East.

A banking law of 1974 set up the Central Bank of Oman, with its own management. The same law laid the ground rules for commercial banks. When the Central Bank came into operation in April 1975 it issued regulations governing capital and deposits, followed soon after by regulations on lending ratios and reserve requirements.

The past two years have seen several alterations to these regulations, but now they stand as a comprehensive body which offers some interesting comparisons with practice elsewhere in the region. No bank may lend more than 20 per cent of its net worth to a single borrower. Capital adequacy is partly protected by obliging each bank to deposit a minimum of 500,000 rials (\$145m) with the Central Bank.

In practice, new banks are asked to provide guarantees bringing the notional capital to at least 2m rials (\$5.79m). In addition all banks must lodge a capital deposit of a minimum of 50,000 rials (\$14,500) and a maximum of 500,000 rials expressed as one tenth of 1 per cent of the bank's total assets. The Central Bank also now requires that the majority interest in banks is controlled by Omanis.

Equally important to the healthy development of banking in Oman, however, have been economic and political considerations. A determined campaign, consisting of military and social measures, was launched against the Dhofar insurgency. Foreigners began to show more confidence in the country, and the economy boomed.

The economic, military, and social strategy had as a major aim the modernization of the country's hinterland. Thus since November, 1975 banks have been asked to start two interior branches for each additional branch after their first three have opened in Muscat. Four are allowed if one is in Salalah. The result is that by the end of September this year 16 inland towns had at least one bank. While not denying that these rules were part of the Government's wider strategy, the Central Bank says it was not forced to accept anything with which it disagreed.

But the real impetus was economic. Between 1973 and 1974 money supply rose by 100 per cent. The rate slowed in the next two years, and then actually declined at the beginning of this year, to recover in the second quarter.

Now, however, there are signs of an economic slowdown. The banks' actual assets declined slightly from 275m rials (\$796m) in December, 1976, to 257m rials (\$745m) in March, 1977. The official view is that the slowdown is just a more realistic rate after the breakneck expansion of the early 1970s. But to ensure

that adequate finance is forthcoming, two new development banks have been started, the Oman Development Bank, in which the Government is subscribing 40 per cent of the 10m rials (\$29m) capital, and the Omani Housing Bank, capitalized at the same amount, with a 10 per cent share going to the British Bank of the Middle East.

Whatever happens to the economy over the next few years, it is unlikely that last year's record figures of money supply, up 44 per cent, and credit reaching its legal limit of 85 per cent of deposits, will be repeated. But the bank's business is securely founded.

From the international banker's point of view, however, Oman cannot be as attractive as Bahrain or the United Arab Emirates. The absence from Oman of most of the top names which proliferate in other Gulf countries indicates Oman's lack of appeal. It will probably be a long time before the image is more enticing. In the meantime, it could prove a testing ground for the development of Arab banks.

The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest.

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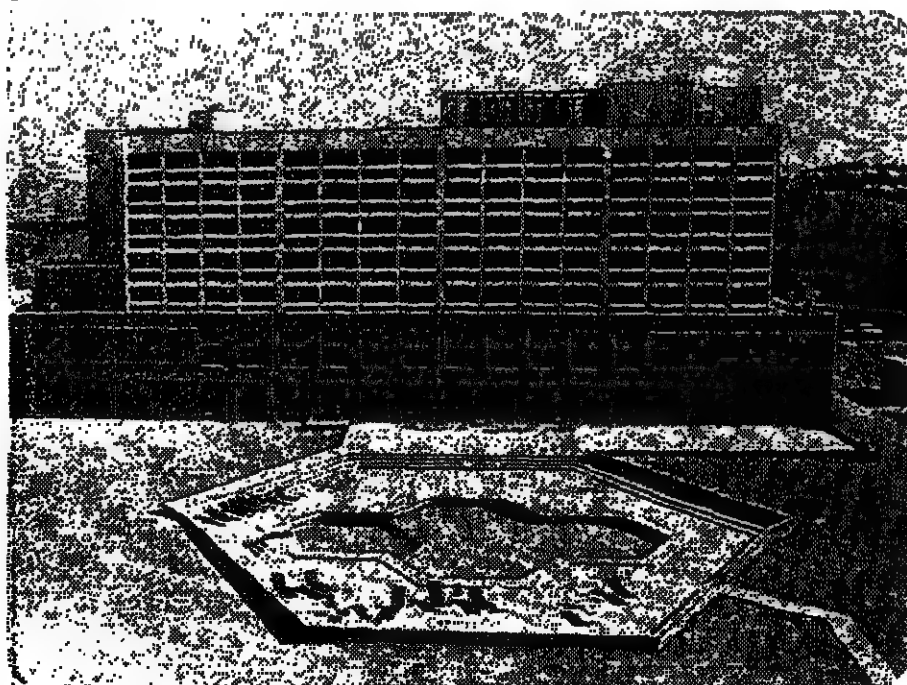
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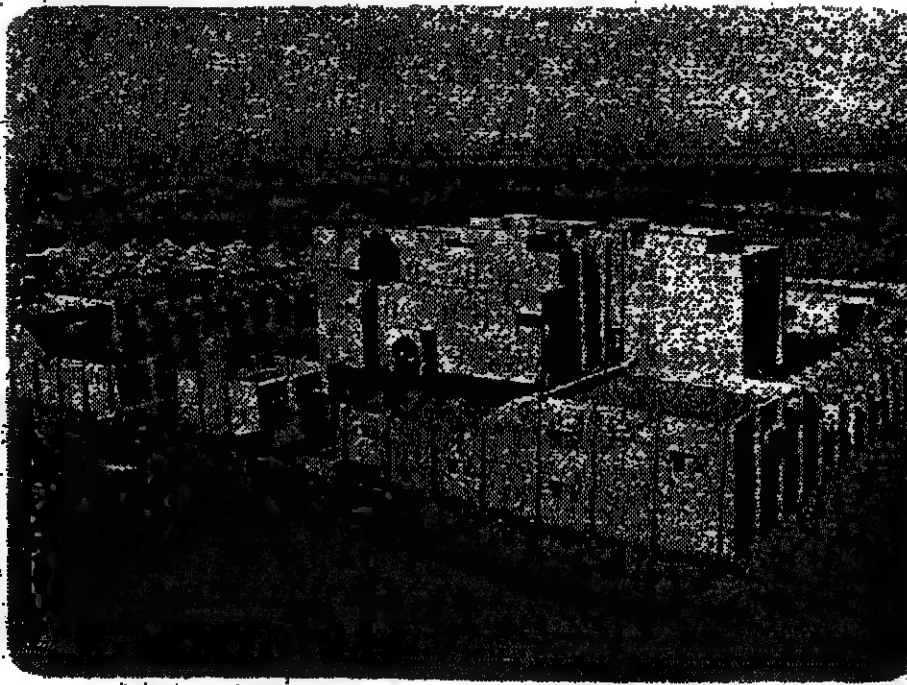
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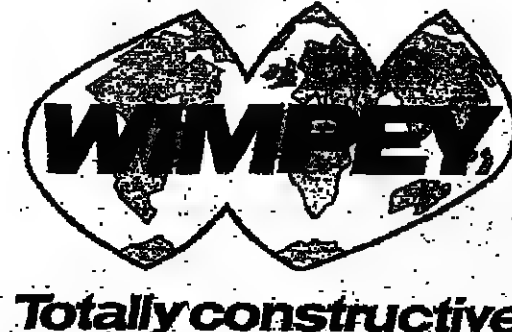
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FOCUS ON

OIL AND DEFENCE

Riches underlie former battlefield

by Roger Vielvoys

Oman is now poised to bring into production three new oilfields in the southern part of the country close to the region where only recently government forces were engaged in a bitter struggle with insurgents. By Middle Eastern standards the fields, Marani, Amal and Nasir, are small but for Oman their development is important.

Not only will they demonstrate the benefits of peace in the area, but will also provide a valuable new source of oil by the end of the decade when the established oilfields in the north-east part of the country begin to run dry.

Over the past few years the northern field has been working at maximum capacity to provide money for the war. Present production is about 335,000 barrels a day from nine fields south of the Saudi Arabian border. They are operated by Shell on behalf of Petroleum Development (Oman) in which the Government has a 60 per cent holding. Shell has a 34 per cent interest and the other 6 per cent is held by the Compagnie Francaise des Pétroles with 4 per cent and Paraflex with 2 per cent.

The new fields in the south were discovered in the 1950s long before the

fighting started and this was not the main cause of the delay in development. Until oil prices began to soar after the 1973-74 Arab-Israeli war and the resulting oil supply crisis, it was not economically feasible to consider a production programme from such small fields.

Estimates of the production capability of the fields vary. Shell, which is undertaking the development plans on behalf of PDO, reckons that the reservoir can produce the 30,000 barrels a day needed to warrant commercial exploitation.

Shell puts the development cost at between \$200m and \$250m and is still involved with talks with the Government over the terms under which the programme will be undertaken. A decision is expected before the end of the year. The Government takes a slightly more optimistic view of the prospects. It is hoping that the fields will yield up to 50,000 barrels a day. Neither the Government nor Shell gives any credence to independent estimates that the reservoirs are capable of producing 200,000 barrels a day.

Estimates for development costs are high because of the geographical position of the fields in extremely difficult terrain. The oil is also heavy with a high sulphur content which would not mix with the lighter and better quality oils from the northern fields, causing doubts over the possibility of building a 200-mile pipeline to join the two producing areas.

Strongly this solution might have been cheaper than the most likely alternative—laying a 45-mile pipeline to the Indian Ocean coast at Kuria Muria Bay. Almost the entire route is through very difficult mountainous country with a final obstacle—laying pipes down the 900ft high cliffs that encircle the anchorage. Even then the problems are not over. Weather in the bay is notoriously unsettled which will make life difficult for workers of up to

50,000-ton berthing at the proposed offshore loading facility.

There is also speculation that Oman and Saudi Arabia are close to reaching agreement on the route for another pipeline to link the Saudi oilfields at Shaybah to a terminal on the Indian Ocean coast.

A spate of loans from Saudi Arabia to Oman, particularly \$113m for improving basic services in Dhofar, have increased speculation that agreement on the pipeline route is close. It is suggested that Saudi Arabia would lease a corridor of land through Oman for the line, but Oman would retain final rights over the land and would be responsible for security.

Exploration is also under way. The best prospect so far is offshore in the Gulf of Hormuz, where the Elf Aquitaine group appears to have made a promising find close to the median line with Iranian waters. Gulf Oil has also taken a 40 per cent stake in an onshore block in the north-west held by Quintana Petroleum of Texas.

A consortium of British Petroleum, Agip and Deminor also has a 24,710 sq mile concession covering most of the Dhofar region not assigned to PDO. It plans to spend about \$39m on exploration drilling in an attempt to prove an extension of the Rub al Khali geological formation from Saudi Arabia.

A \$95m programme has been started to develop the country's associated gas reserves. Snam Progetti and Saipem, subsidiaries of ENI, the Italian state energy corporation, have been awarded contracts to build a gas gathering system to cover the existing northern fields. A 200-mile pipeline is also being built to move 125 million cu ft of gas a day to the coastal industrial area near Muscat where it will be used for electricity generation and for water desalination.

The author is Energy Correspondent, The Times.

War that ended with a whimper

by Henry Stanhope

Two years after winning the long war against rebels in the southern province of Dhofar, the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) are occupying the Omani front line in the battle to secure the peace.

On the face of it, this is not too difficult. The war ended with a whimper rather than a bang, reflecting the way in which the British-led SAF squeezed the rebel infrastructure in the Dhofar mountains until there was no breath left. One by one the remaining leaders of the communist-inspired insurrection have given themselves up, lured by the promise of an amnesty, £150 for surrendering their rifles and perhaps a place in the Firqat, the paramilitary home guard which now keeps the peace in the jebel.

Fears that the war might be prolonged or even escalated by the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY), which trained, encouraged and equipped the rebels, have not materialised. The PDRY has troubles of its own and is disinclined to become directly involved in the struggle. The SAF troops sit astride the old supply routes along which the rebels passed from the PDRY to Oman and back again, at Safait. To reopen these routes would require a major military operation, and the Yemenis are unable to mount one. Even the artillery fire, which continued for some time after the war, has now stopped.

In one sense, however, the problems for the SAF have only just begun. Or, if that is too strong, then they have at least exchanged one set of problems for another.

In the first place the peace has to be maintained.

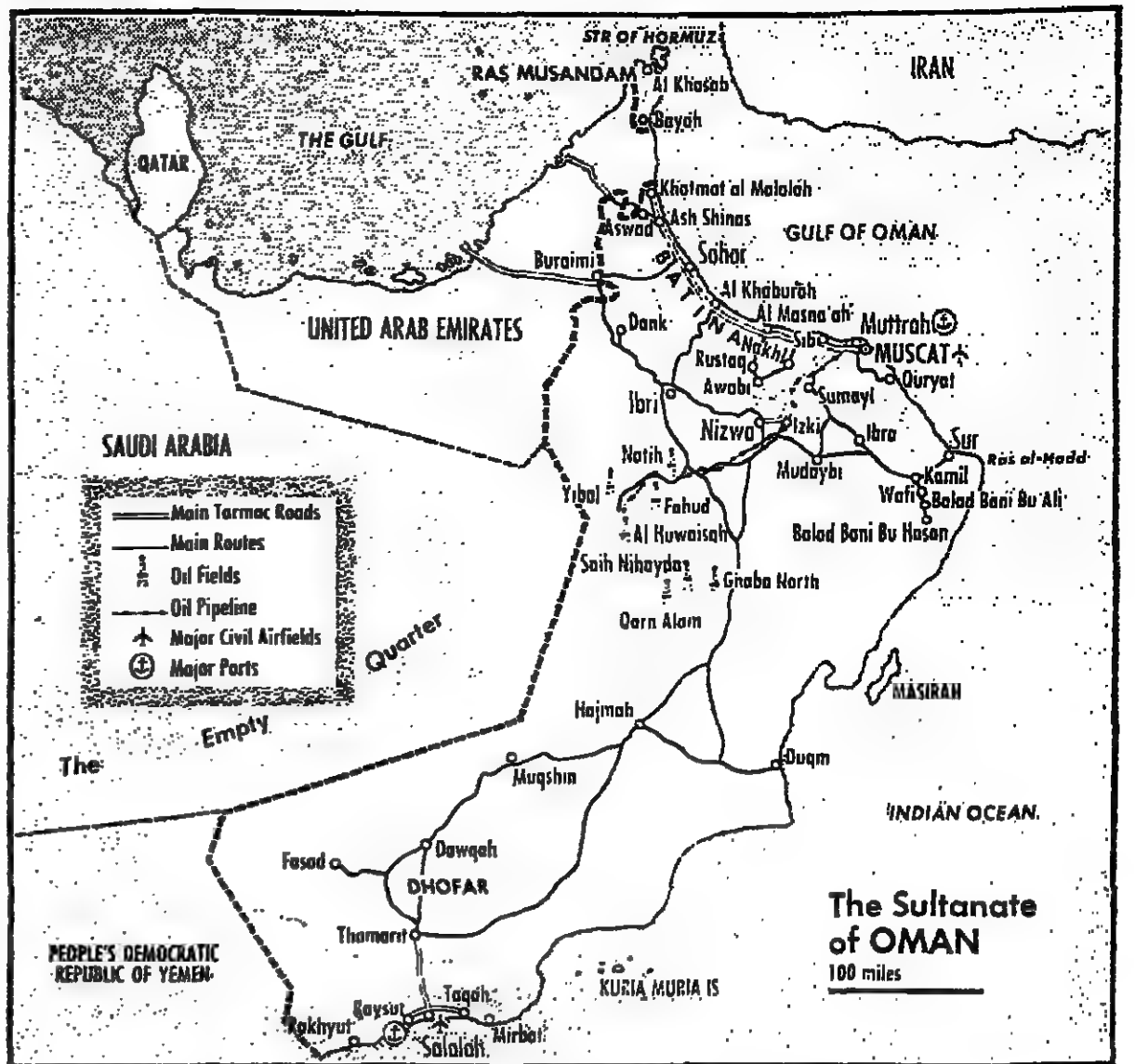
Although there is scarcely an external threat to the rule of Sultan Qaboos, there is always the underlying fear of internal disruption in a country so divided by both geography and tribal loyalties. More than half the 3,100-strong Firqat are former rebels from the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO) whose loyalty to the Sultan depends more on material benefits than any surge of patriotic feeling. Seconded British officers who led the SAF throughout the war respected the Firqat's knowledge of the jebel, but otherwise regarded them with some misgivings.

Both in the jebel and in the open expanses of the Oman interior, far away from the more Western-style civilisation on the coast, the regular troops have a dual purpose. One is to keep at least a fatherly eye on security and to spot any early signs of renewed insurrection. The other is to assist in the complicated civil aid programme which is now well under way.

The two are obviously inter-dependent. As long as the civil aid programme continues to bring material benefits to the tribesmen tending their cattle in the remote settlements in the mountains, insurrection is improbable. If at any time it should be seen to falter, however, the PDRY propaganda which still filters into Oman—more particularly in Dhofar—could start to win back a few converts. There are still enough people around who might be described as rebels without a cause, and it would be a little short of a disaster if they suddenly discovered one.

So there is an obvious and quite important role for the SAF in the road-building, well-sinking, air transport operations that are now helping the Sultan to capitalise upon the peace. They have the training, the equipment and the manpower to push the schemes forward.

The forces are trying to press forward with this double purpose, while at the



same time carrying out a slow, not always painless progress towards Omanisation of their own ranks.

Substantial strides have already been made in this direction, but it is a slow business and to some extent has been overtaken by the growth in size and complexity of the force structure. The number of British troops in Oman under what is called "direct assistance"—which means that the cost of keeping them there is borne largely by Britain—has gone down to about 50. These include a medical team, some Royal Engineers and an estimated 15 members of the Special Air Service who help to train the Firqat. At one time the number of SAS was as high as 60. But there are still 200 British personnel, officers and senior non-commissioned officers on loan to the SAF, which means that the costs are paid by the Omani Government. And as many as 465 former British servicemen are serving under independent contract to the Sultan. This adds up to about 700 British nationals who under present plans are due to be phased out of their posts during the next three or four years.

The original plan was for the British to be gradually replaced until the British commander himself finally returned in 1981. But it will be a struggle to meet that schedule. Actually since the going up rather than down, division of the SAF into three more closely defined arms, a navy, army and air force, each with a British officer in charge, the job of Omanisation are all too apparent. As it is the army, estimated at about 15,000 strong, relies heavily upon the resources of institutions such as the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and the Staff College at Camberley to help to train the brightest and the best for command appointments.

According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the air force has only 36 combat aircraft—16 Hunters, 12 Jaguars and eight Strike Masters. There are also transport aircraft and helicopters, which are important for the civil aid programme. The small coastal navy consists largely of fast

patrol boats and a few landing craft.

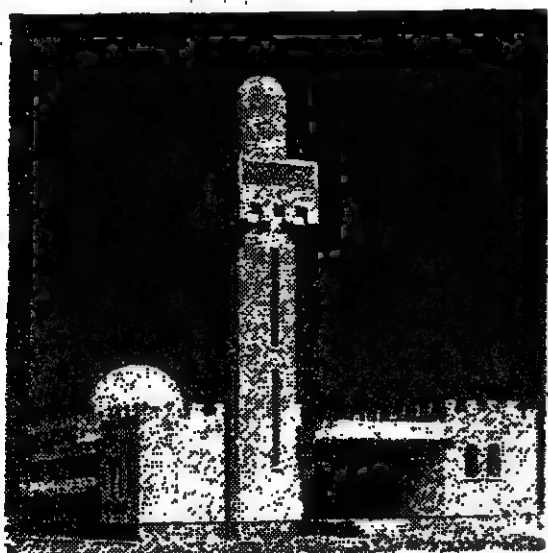
Meanwhile 1,000 Iranian troops remain in Oman, along with a detachment of Jordanian engineers. The number of Iranians has gone down since the end of the war, but the SAF says that it is in no hurry to see the others follow them back to Teheran. The Iranian presence is a comforting insurance against further trouble and may well remain until the process of Omanisation is nearer to completion.

In summary, the armed forces need to use the peace both to build up their own strength for the long-term future, with Omanis rather than British officers in the front line, and to enable them to continue playing a leading part in the civil aid programme. Fortunately there is no overt threat to that peace, and problems are more likely to stem from organisational change rather than external pressures.

The author is Defence Correspondent, The Times.

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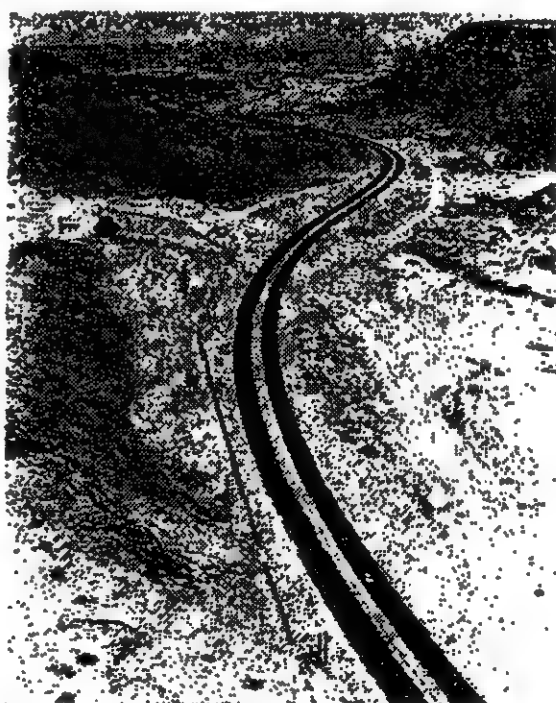


Muaskar Al Murtafa'a Complex

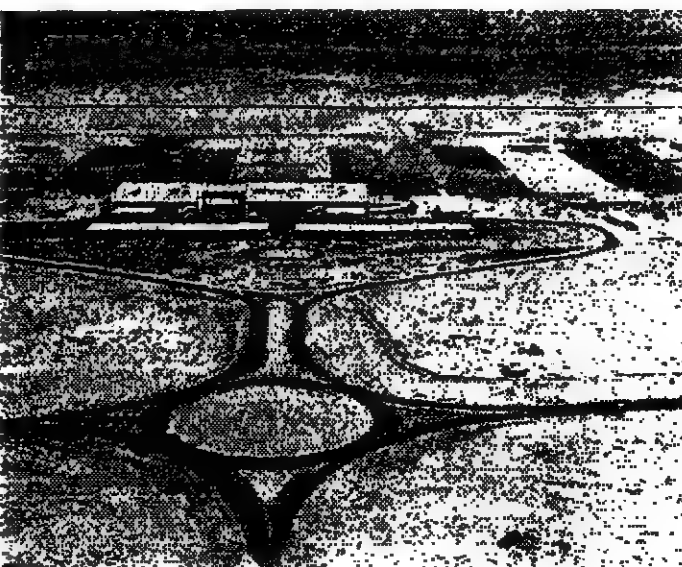


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IRRIGATION, EDUCATION AND ARCHITECTURE

by Norma Ashworth

Where the groundwater resources discharge naturally as springs and base

information from remote sites to a central agency for better water management; introduction of an irrigation management service to all farmers, providing them with accurate information on the amount of water needed for crop support; and development of better maintenance

However, many obstacles are still to be surmounted. Oman is regarded by its neighbours as blessed by its comparably beneficent rainfall in the desert territories and possession of the monsoon climate in richly-fertile Dhofar.

The total number of teachers has risen from 30 in 1970 to 2,876 in 1977, and

There was, in addition, the special problem of children orphaned by the

T.O.

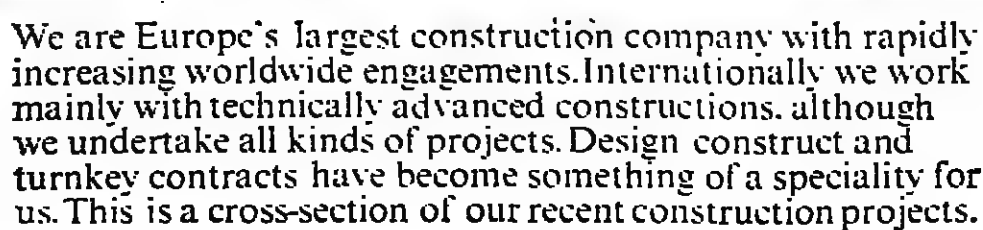
builders, in particular, will take many years to overcome but the overall pic-

prayer niches; classical, ornamented pillars and delicately-cranellated roof eadings.

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FOCUS ON**HEALTH AND CONSTRUCTION****Accent is on preventing the old scourges**

by Tim Owen

When touring through the sultanate of Oman in 1977 it is difficult to appreciate that only seven years ago there was only one hospital in the whole country, and that was the American Mission Hospital in Muscat. Now there are hospitals in all large centres of population and clinics and health centres to serve the rural areas.

Before the development of the health services the main scourges of Oman were tuberculosis, malaria, dysentery, and trachoma, the eye disease, spread by fly-infected dust, which leads to blindness if not treated in its early stages.

Particularly in the villages of the interior there is ample evidence to this day of

the tragedy of blindness which has afflicted young and old alike. The mortality rate of babies was very high, and epidemics of measles and influenza would sweep through whole areas, particularly among the Bedu tribes, killing off hundreds, already weakened by malnutrition.

There is a striking parallel between the problems and developments of the health and education services. Both have suffered difficulties and both have reached a stage of development when there is a pause for consolidation and a switch of emphasis.

Initially under the driving force of Dr Asan al-Jamali, and later Dr Mubarak al-Khaduri, the Ministry of Health has put through an impressive programme for the construction of hospitals, health centres, clinics and ancillary facilities. There are now 13 hospitals, 11 health centres and 42 dis-

pensaries and clinics throughout the country.

The construction programme is almost completed, and now the emphasis has been shifted to preventive medicine and health guidance. An immunization programme has been launched and is gaining momentum. This especially applies to malaria, which has been endemic in the areas of date gardens, where stagnant irrigation water produces ideal conditions for the anopheles mosquito.

Great importance is attached to the education of women and children in health matters, a subject which requires careful and tactful handling. Personal hygiene, nutritional habits, cleanliness in the home and the disposal of rubbish all have a bearing on the rate of intestinal diseases such as dysentery and gastro-enteritis, as well as hepatitis and

trachoma. Outside the towns most drinking water is obtained from wells and contamination of such water and the dangers to health that go with it have to be explained to the villagers.

When Sultan Qaboos acceded in 1970 there was only one trained Omani doctor, Asan al-Jamali, and he was practising in voluntary exile in the Trucial States as he refused to return to Oman under the regime of Sultan Said bin Taimur. In 1970 he returned to become the first Minister of Health under the new regime. It therefore follows that from the beginning the health service was entirely dependent on expatriate doctors, nurses and technical staff.

Most of the doctors are Indian and Pakistani. Only about 20 of the 200 doctors practising in the sultanate are Omani. Omani doctors are being trained abroad.

Training is long and so Oman will have to rely on expatriate doctors for many years to come.

In the early years of the health programme construction got well ahead of staffing with the result that in one case a hospital was completed in all respects near Muscat but had to remain empty for some months because of lack of staff. At Rostaq the new hospital under the charge of an indefatigable Indian doctor with a team of Swedish nurses was able to deal only with maternity cases and outpatients. Although fully equipped with the most modern equipment it lacked the staff to deal with surgical cases.

These difficulties have been surmounted. Indian and Pakistani doctors are far better paid in Oman than in their own countries. Most of the nurses, technicians

and health assistants also come from the Indian sub-continent, and will continue to do so until Omanis can be trained to replace them.

In Dhofar, as the areas where the fighting was taking place have been brought under control, clinics have been set up in the villages, and a flying doctor service was instituted because of the lack of road communications. The original 80-bed hospital in Salalah has now been replaced by a new 250-bed hospital, recently opened.

Much is being done in the schools to educate the younger generation in hygiene and health care. As housing conditions improve together with sewage disposal, water supplies, improved nutritional standards, immunization and general health education, so will the diseases endemic to Oman be overcome and eliminated.



The police sports stadium, near Watayah, which can accommodate 20,000 people. Construction: Yahya Costain.

Room to build at the top in wake of boom

by John Whelan

Even in the expanding area of Muscat, Oman appears to have eschewed the Gulf maxim that in construction work cheapest and quickest is best.

According to an assessment by a British firm of quantity surveyors, D. J. Jones, McCooch and Partners, the reduced workload brought about by the tightening of credit has resulted in tenders approximately 15 per cent lower than last year. Mr George McCooch says: "If you assume inflation at 15 per cent in the interim then in reality they are 30 per cent less."

The general direction of bank credit in the construction sector corroborates this view. In March 1976 credit in this sector, at 18.7m rials, was 12.3 per cent of total bank credit. By June of this year bank credit in the construction sector had fallen to 18.4m rials and then accounted for only 8.2 per cent of all credit.

The boom years have apparently gone, though Mr McCooch and other observers of the Omani economy see room for development at the top end of the market. His analysis of falling tender prices was based on an index for a typical shops, offices and flats development.

Oman may well have reached a stage where there is too little money available for property development. That is something which the formation of the Oman Housing Bank—in effect a recapitalization of the former Oman General Housing Development Authority which was established by the Government and the British Bank of the Middle East in 1974—is intended to remedy. The Housing Bank's aim is to bolster investment in housing for Omani nationals but it will also undertake related project construction finance.

An injection of capital into the property market could also come from the opening of the Development Bank of Oman in the new year which will be lending at commercial rates but over longer periods than the 20 commercial banks.

The reduced amount of work is also apparent in the public sector where the big joint-venture companies are operating. The United Kingdom's share of the market

for facilities in this sector is the most significant, with the big names like Costain and Taylor Woodrow working in association with local partners.

In the private sector, businessmen such as the managing director of W. J. Towell and Company, Mr Ali Sulkan, say the boom is over, particularly in construction. W. J. Towell was founded more than a hundred years ago and its associates include Taylor Woodrow International and Gray Mackenzie, both of the United Kingdom. Mr Sulkan said: "I see some chances of more infrastructure development in the interior but the boom conditions are now unlikely to return. Taylor Woodrow Towell has recently had to lay off employees."

The consultants' view is that coupled with the reduced budget is a new selectiveness. One of them commented: "The Government is becoming much more conscious of the way it spends its money and much more interested in getting value for money."

This choosiness has been expressed in a Government decision to put designs for new buildings out for competition by consultants not only to find the most suitable design but also taking the fees into consideration. Contracts between a consultant and a ministry now have to be approved both by the ministry concerned and separately by the Ministry of Finance.

Civil contractors working in Oman also have to come to terms with the stated aim of the five-year plan to reduce the quantity of imported construction materials by expanding import substitution industries such as cement. To this end the Government has gone into a joint venture with the private sector to build a cement factory.

Overall it is the aim of the five-year plan to reduce the share of construction and building in gross domestic product from 58m rials in 1976 to 49m rials in 1980. Most building contractors—and there were 795 registered contracting firms at the end of 1976—believe there is more development of ancillary structure which could take place, particularly in the south. Much will depend on the hopes of increased oil revenue and diversification of the economy into minerals and food production.

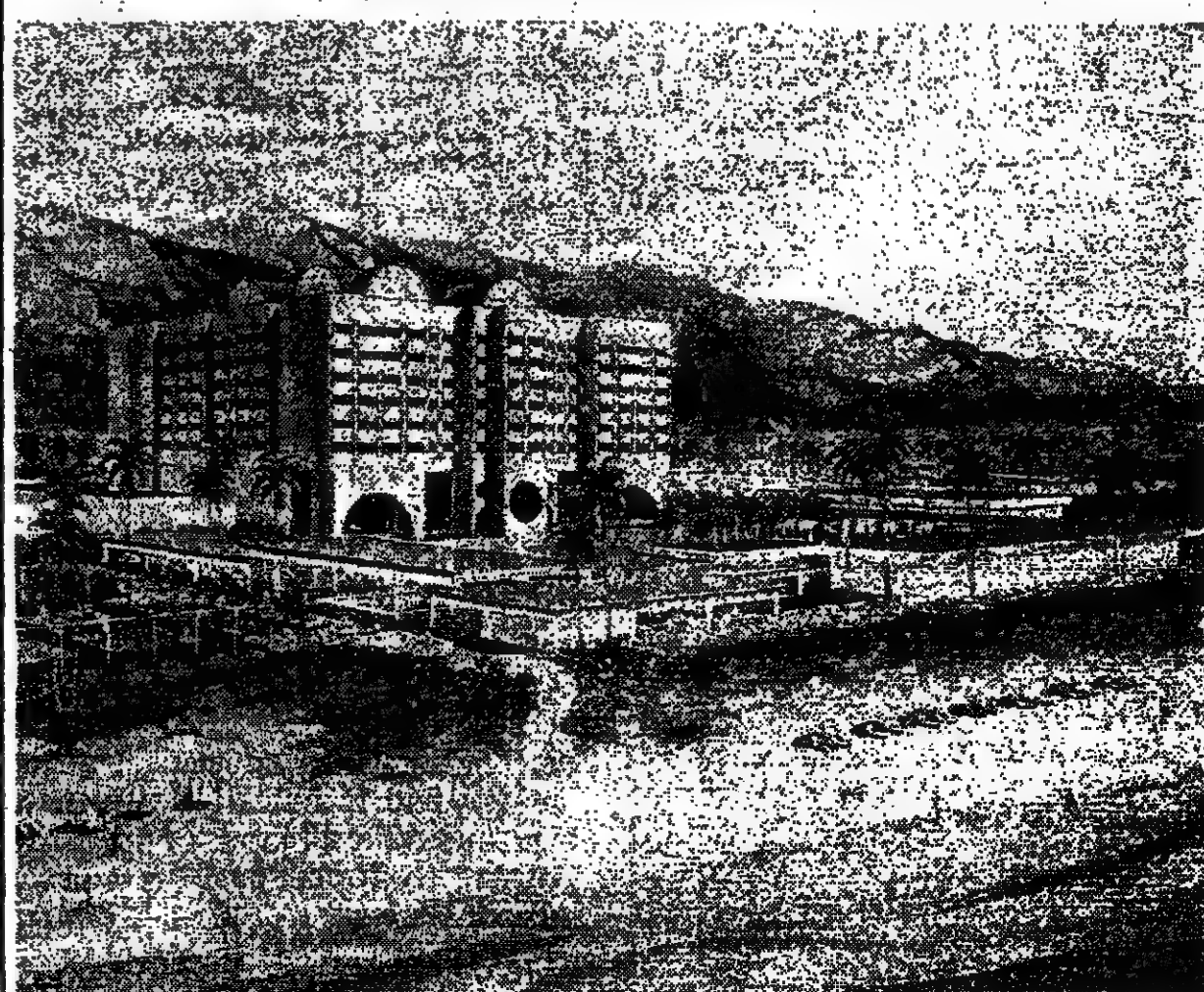
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FOCUS ON

DHOFAR AND MUSCAT

Cubans are given their marching orders

by Christopher Walker

Three years ago, the remote Dhofar village of Rakhyut served as the temporary headquarters of the Cuban-aided guerrillas who make up the revolutionary Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman. Today the area is firmly back in the hands of the Sultan's army; a new school stands out prominently from the ribbon of flat-roofed houses which straggles along the shore of the Indian Ocean, and work is due to begin soon on a police station, the first to be constructed in the wild, semi-desert area which has endured a long history of tribal anarchy.

The transformation of Rakhyut is an accurate reflection of the changes which have taken place elsewhere in Dhofar, the previously undeveloped southern region of Oman, since the palace coup which brought Sultan Qaboos bin Said to power in July 1970. The pace of improvement is still restrained by severe climatic and logistical diffi-

culties, but it has increased noticeably since fighting in the 10-year-old "secret war" ended in December 1975. "The Government recognized early that once the war was won, there would still be a long and expensive struggle ahead to win the peace", one senior British officer on loan to the Sultan's army explained.

A positive indication of the relaxation in the security situation is the decision to stage this year's elaborate National Day celebrations in Salalah, the southern capital, rather than the traditional venue of Muscat, 500 miles to the north. Foreign diplomats regard this move as a sign of the Sultan's determination to unite his country in a way never attempted previously. It is an ambition which has been made more difficult by the lack of racial or tribal bonds between many of the estimated 100,000 Dhofaris and other Omanis.

Geographically Dhofar covers an area the size of Wales, 38,000 sq miles of country which ranges from the tall, seductive coconut groves of Salalah to the

bleak southern extremities of the arid, barren Rub al Khali (the Empty Quarter). Its character and importance to Oman is largely dependent on the contact which it makes annually with the tip of the south-western monsoon.

The khareef winds blow in over the Indian Ocean surf for four months to ensure that the coastal strip and the southern edge of the jebel is covered with almost continuous cotton wool cloud from June until October. The region receives up to 30in of rain a year, most of which falls as fine drizzle like an Irish mist.

This freak whim of the world's climate means that a narrow strip of tropical cultivation flourishes along the 50km length of the Salalah plain. Rising above it is the jebel, covered with thick scrub and scarred with deep wadis, behind which lie grass-covered uplands stretching inland for about 20km. Water remains the key to life in such a barren corner of the globe, and much of the Government's policy has been geared towards improving

and extending the 4,000 or so cultivated acres on the plain, without damaging the natural resources which have permitted their survival.

Since 1974, the Omani authorities and their many British advisers in Dhofar have been waging one of the most successful hearts and minds campaigns seen in the aftermath of fighting against extreme left wing forces. Based loosely around the construction of 20 habitation centres in the jebel, the central aim has been to woo the mountain tribesmen away from any support for the Marxists by providing them with adequate material and spiritual necessities for the first time in their lives.

When completed, most of the isolated centres will be linked by some form of road network and will contain a school, health centre, fixed-price shop, well and a mosque. The last is described by one official as a visible sign of anti-communism.

The entire programme was originally under the control of the Civil Aid Department

supervised by a former British army major, Mr Martin Robb. But in recent months as an increasing air of normality has returned to a region for which guerrilla warfare had become a way of life, sedulous are being transferred to the ordinary government bodies. On September 1 responsibility for the pioneering rural health service was handed over to the Ministry of Health, and a parallel transfer of the jebel schools to the Education Ministry will take place soon.

Alongside this extensive development programme, which has resulted in Dhofar being earmarked for 27 per cent of the expenditure in the five-year plan, activities in the military field are now concentrated on ensuring the long-term loyalty of the Firqas, a form of tribal home guard established as a buffer against any renewal of communist activity in the jebel. It now numbers 3,100 men, more than half of whom are former PFLO members who have been tempted to defect by an amnesty combined with considerable cash inducements.

Although the total number of Firqas is small, their role in preventing revival of PFLO activity is regarded as crucial by their British military commanders. As well as being paid a healthy monthly wage of £150, they are also provided with Belgian FN rifles and paid individual sums which have occasionally run into thousands of pounds for information leading to the discovery of enemy arms dumps.

The purchase of loyalty has a long tradition in the Dhofar region, historically renowned for its vicious blood feuds and bloody inter-tribal disputes for control of the now defunct frankincense trade. Under the Sultan's guidance, the traditional methods are being accompanied by an imaginative development programme and intensive training in counter-terrorist techniques by members of the Special Air Service Regiment. Their chances of success and those of the whole region should be considerably assisted by last month's announcement that a \$300m oil drilling programme in Dhofar will begin next January.

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A touch of The Turl and influential ladies

"There was a little of Jerusalem to its mystique, a little of Charleston, just a touch of the back streets of Oxford, a trace of one of those little fishing ports on the Gulf of Venice—and the whole welded and illuminated by an overpowering sense of the old Arabia, compounded of ships, lattice windows and hidden, influential ladies."

That was how the walled Omani capital of Muscat first struck James Morris, a distinguished former Middle East Correspondent of The Times, in 1956. Since then the sultanate has undergone a remarkable social and economic upheaval which has amounted to its transformation from a medieval to modern state, yet thankfully many of the city's picturesque characteristics have survived the inevitable bulldozers. One reason has been a deliberate policy in recent years to redirect all development inland to the sprawling and undisturbed new town of Ruwi.

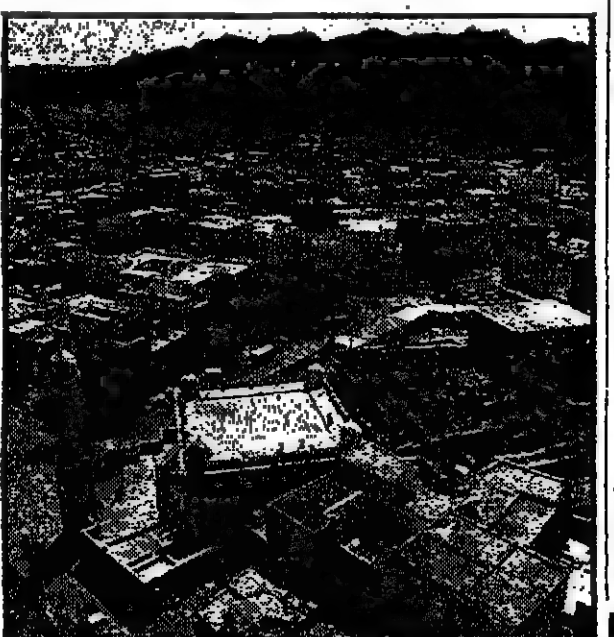
In the past many seasoned travellers have commented on the two most dominant aspects of Muscat: its blistering summer heat and its facility for imparting an immediate sense of history. As early as 1442, it was accurately described as one of the hottest places on earth by a Persian visitor who reported that the game

in the hands of his dagger were reduced to coal by the heat.

Daytime temperatures climb effortlessly into the 120s and because the city is set in a semi-circular bowl formed by the rocky hills, the stone acts like fire-brick and the heat is retransmitted during the hours of darkness. Although British diplomats no longer follow the practice of their early predecessors, who used to sleep on the residency roof wrapped in wet sheets, the pace of life inside the beating mud walls of Muscat is still noticeably more relaxed than in other parts of the country.

The capital is no larger than a small English market town, with the bulk of its commercial environment historically lived off to the bustling twin port of Matrah, three miles along the coast. Considering of predominantly white houses dwarfed by the impressive neo-mogul design of Sultan Qaboos's new seaside palace, Muscat has a waterfront of only a few hundred yards perched on the edge of a narrow sea anchorage. This is guarded on either side by two sixteenth-century Portuguese fortresses.

Muscat, the northerly of these two inhospitable looking buildings houses members of the Sultan's Royal Guard. Until 1970, a cannon was fired from the battlements three hours



A sector of Muscat, dominated as in all Arab cities by a mosque.

after sunset each evening to warn residents that the trodded game of the city were about to be shut. The practice was one of many smacking of the Middle Ages ordered by the old Sultan, who also insisted that anyone walking after dark inside the walls had to carry a lighted lantern.

Across the water to the south lies Falaik, which in the days of the previous regime was a notorious prison where scores of convicts were kept shackled to the walls in darkened cells. Since the accession of Sultan Qaboos, the gates of Muscat remain open around the clock and all the prisoners from Falaik have been released.

An unusual feature of Muscat's natural harbour has been created by the long-running custom of visiting foreign naval vessels to inscribe their names in giant letters on the sheer rock walls which protect the anchorage. Legend and the previous Sultan, Said bin Taimur, both had it that Nelson was one of the first sailors to take part in one of the hazardous painting parties when he was still a midshipman.

Today, names like HMS Crocus and HMS Falcon are still clearly visible on the rockface, although other contributions to this evocative form of naval graffiti have been obliterated by time and the sun. The sultanate's recent emergence into the twentieth century has done nothing to diminish the practice, no doubt to the chagrin of the residents who still have to wield the brushes and whitewash.

Apart from the Sultan's new palace, complete with gushing fountains and laboriously cultivated rose gardens, the British Embassy is the only other residential building in Muscat with direct access to the seafloor. Heavy with the atmosphere of Graham Greene, the courtyard was the scene in 1965 of the last occasion when a slave was given his freedom, or manumitted, by the British authorities under a nineteenth century treaty. "Although slavery had already been abolished, the man insisted that he was not free, so we gave him the necessary certificate", the diplomat involved explained.

In the narrow, dusty streets which surround the high embassy walls, Indian, African and Portuguese influences are constantly to be discovered blending with the Arab dress and customs of the native Omanis. It is this combination which still provides modern Muscat with a cosmopolitan character quite distinct from that to be found in any of the other Gulf capitals.

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FACTS AND FIGURES

Religion: cultural diversity in varied landscape

In the absence of any reliable census, the population total is uncertain, with estimates extending from 750,000 to 1,500,000. Whatever the exact figure, the inhabitants display a great ethnic and cultural diversity determined above all by the country's varied geography.

The largest category, probably accounting for almost two thirds of the population, are urban dwelling, concentrated in the strip of coastal

cities including Sohar, Sib, Muscat, and Sur. Traditionally living by trading and fish, the inhabitants of these coastal cities have most easily adapted to modernization and probably dominate Oman's fast growing services sector.

Tribalism, although still important, has been diluted by this transformation as well as by the influx of labour from Iran, Pakistan and India. The inhabitants of the Hajar mountains tend to be more traditional, with

former tribal divisions. Unlike the coastal inhabitants who tend to be Sunni or Shia, they are invariably followers of the austere Ibadhi sect and earn their livelihood from handicrafts in the main towns—Nizwa, Rostaq and Ibri—or from cultivation on terraced mountainsides.

The 25,000 Beduin who inhabit the 600-mile wide desert plain between the Hajar and Dhofar also practice a strictly orthodox form of Islamic faith, are firmly rooted in tribal structures and follow the traditional

occupation of herding goats, sheep and the prized Omani camels.

Isolated from the rest of the country are the 35,000 Dhofaris in the south-west, who are geographically as well as ethnically distinct from the rest of the country. Many are Hamitic rather than Semitic and, although bound by the common denominators of Islam, speak a variety of languages. And, in the Salalah area, an added ingredient is Negro stock from East Africa.

Because of the dominance

of the Ibadhi sect, one of the earliest forms of Islam, the Islamic character of the country is profound. The religious law, or Sharia, is strictly followed, administered by the qadis. Its austerity has, however, been blunted by large numbers of Shites in the coastal towns, especially among the merchant class. The inhabitants of the western edge of the Hajar mountains and the Beduin of the south-east are Sunni.

Much of the essential character of the population

Research on this and the facing page is by the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) consultants

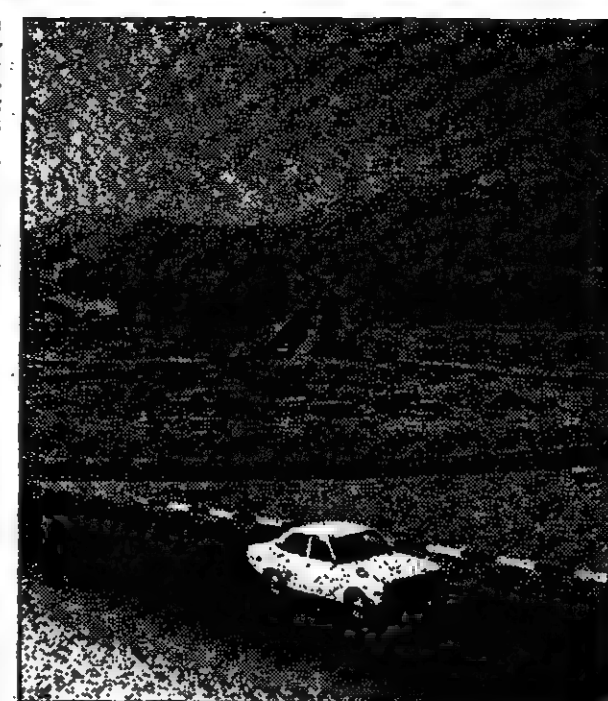
Benefits follow roads

A road map of Oman at the end of 1970 would have presented a clear picture of the plight of the country, dislocated and isolated as it was from its neighbours with a pitiful eight miles of Tarmac road and few unsalted tracks.

It is not surprising that Sultan Qaboos made road building and transport schemes a priority during the first years of his reign and earliest developments started in 1971 simultaneously with improvements to air and sea links, and included an asphalt surfaced road which ran 145 miles between Muscat and Sohar. This major construction immediately brought the small villages of the Batin coast in fairly close contact with the larger towns, and particularly with the new harbour at Port Qaboos.

Perhaps even more vital to the unification of the country was an asphalt highway running 85 miles from Sib, 20 miles north-west of Muscat where the country's first international airport was built, to Nizwa in the Hajar mountains of the northern interior. It was twice extended, linking the towns of Ibri and Dank with the Buraimi Oasis on the UAE border, and today a modern dual highway runs direct from Buraimi to the port at Abu Dhabi, thus greatly facilitating road haulage through the emirates to the rest of the Middle East and Europe.

Similarly, massive road



A dual carriageway in Ruwi Valley. Roadbuilding has been important to the country's unification.

construction in the south has done much to bring modern health, shopping and schooling to the geographically isolated and much embattled tribes of the Dhofar region. The only main road existing in 1970, joining the towns of Thumait and Salalah, was repeatedly cut by rebels but has now been remade, resurfaced and extended.

It is to the credit of the Government of Oman that so much has been completed in such a short time. Asphalt roads running for 1,250 miles and 2,800 miles of graded roads were opened in 1976, but even so the rate of growth has barely kept pace with the demand for motorized transport. There were about 840 road vehicles registered in Oman at the end of 1970, but by 1976 the number had risen to 30,000. A total of 5,673 cars and 7,205 trucks and buses were imported last year alone, and the resulting pressure on the Government for improvements and extensions to the existing network is unlikely to diminish over the next few years.

As recently as last June,

Oman received a \$16.5m loan from the World Bank which will provide a substantial proportion of the sum required to implement a comprehensive training programme for road workers—aspects of the improving efficiency of the network which the Omanis take very seriously. Finance is also being sought from Saudi Arabia for the building of a further 85 miles of hard-surfaced roads around Dhofar. British consultants have recently submitted an interim report on the feasibility study for the project estimate that the network will cost more than \$74m, and work will include the building of 16 administrative and social centres.

With spending between 1971 and 1975 reaching well over 100m rials (\$308.7m), and the Ministry of Communications raising 13 per cent of the 1976-77 expenditure budget, transport schemes such as this have probably had the greatest economic and social impact of any project launched in Oman's renaissance.

Three-pronged power drive

The development of a water supply system to cater for residential, industrial and agricultural needs and the generation of enough electricity to meet peak demands is a problem which Oman planners and policy-makers have to face, as do those of other Gulf states. The generation of electricity is often linked to the desalination of water in those countries because of the speed in which such technology can be established and Oman has not, as yet, been an exception.

The Government has, however, recently appointed three United Kingdom consultants—Preece Cardew & Rider, Sir M. MacDonald & Partners and Rendel Palmer & Triton—to prepare a power and water development programme for 1977-95. The work is to be done in three phases: (1) to determine the most economic development programme to meet power and urban needs to 1980, and to carry out approved projects under this short-term programme; (2) to determine power and water needs from 1981-85 and to prepare a broad plan for future projects required to meet needs for 1985-95; (3) to prepare recommendations for improvements in legislation, structure, organization, finance, procedures, operations and maintenance of the power and urban water systems of Muscat, Salalah and other specified towns and villages.

A power station and desalination plant was built at al-Ghubra but with too much haste. It was opened on the National Day in November, 1975, but was closed immediately afterwards because of technical problems. At last it now operates at capacity producing six million gallons of water a day and 38 MW of power.

The demand for water is greater from agriculture than the industrial and

domestic sectors. It is for this reason that studies are being carried out as to the viability of improvising existing irrigation systems and setting up new ones.

This may include constructing small dams to harness the heavy rainfall in the Hajar mountains. It will definitely include large expenditures on maintaining the ancient falaj (underground channel) system which dates back from more than 2,000 years. The World Bank and its subsidiary, the International Development

Association, have lent money to the Government to finance the studies for the power and water development programme.

It is not known what the demand for electricity will be but in the meantime new stations are being built and some are being converted to run on gas rather than fuel. Hawker Siddeley of the United Kingdom is still constructing 16 stations. Without doubt, however, when the present studies are completed development will progress speedily.



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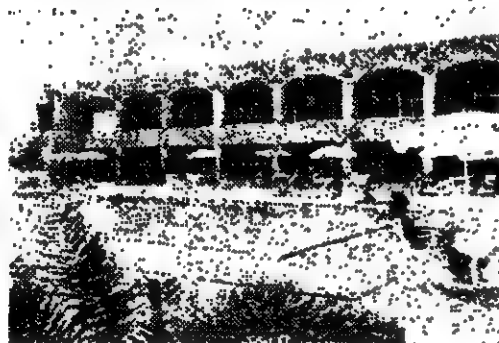
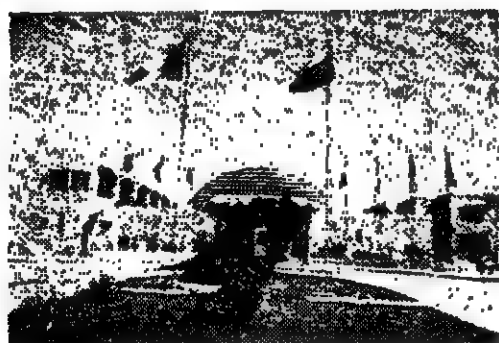
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Geography

Curved across the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula and covering 107,000 sq miles, Oman presents little geographic singularity. Most of the 1,500,000 inhabitants live in the fertile Batin coast along the Gulf of Oman. The coast is cut off from the interior by the rugged Hajar and Jabal Akhdar mountains which reach about 10,000ft.

The interior is mainly inhabited by Beduin and includes large areas of shifting sand in the south-east, tracts of gravel plain and the relatively fertile Dhofar plain, which edges into a mountainous zone at the Yemen border. In addition, Muscat is land off the south-east coast, there is also an enclave on the tip of Ras Muscat, cut off from the rest of Oman by the United Arab Emirates.

Cereals, dates, pomegranates and limes are grown on the Batin coast, the Dhofar plain and on terraced mountain sides around Nizwa in the Jabal Akhdar, and cattle breeding is carried on extensively in Dhofar. With the exception of Dhofar, which catches the summer monsoon rains, agriculture depends on the traditional system of underground water channels.

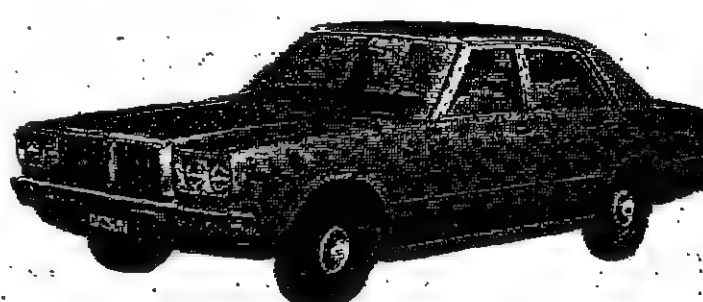
The climate is equally varied. In Muscat, average maximum temperatures in summer reach 40°C with 44 per cent humidity; the highest daily average temperatures in August in Salalah are only 30°C but with slightly higher levels of humidity. Rain, which usually falls in the summer in the south-east and in winter in the north-west, can be surprising heavy and averages 700mm in Muscat.

Commercial banks

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Chartered Bank	6
Grindlays Bank	5
Habib Bank	10
National Bank of Oman	19 (L)
Arab Bank	4
Habib Bank, Zurich	3
Bank of Credit & Commerce International	11
Bank of Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait	3 (L)
Bank Mellat Iran	3
Citibank	2
Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas	1
Arab African Bank	1
Al Bank Ahli al Omani	1 (L)
Bank of Baroda	1
Union Bank of Oman	1 (L)
National Bank of Abu Dhabi	1
Commercial Bank of Oman	5 (L)
Bank Sadarat Iran	1
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Oil: production falling

Oil is one of the least plentiful of Middle East oil producers. While the oil sector is absolutely dominant, contributing 72.7 per cent of GDP and 90 per cent of government revenues, oil reserves are small and its quality is extremely poor. Even now, to maintain the comparatively modern rate of production, massive amounts of steam and gas must be injected and unit costs are consequently the highest in the Middle East.

The largest producing area at Fahud, which averages 280,000 barrels a day or 74 per cent of Oman's total production is nearing the limit of exploitation. New fields are being discovered and quickly brought on stream, production levels will fall from an estimated

139 million barrels in 1976 to 118 million barrels. Production is handled solely by Petroleum Development (Oman) in which the Government has a 60 per cent share, Shell 35 per cent and Compagnie Française des Pétroles 5 per cent. PDO, in addition to its operating fields at Fahud and Ghobla, has also been awarded the east Dhofar concession and plans to spend \$200m on exploring new discoveries which suggest reserves of at least 30,000 barrels a day.

Other concessions have been granted to Sun Oil for an off-shore area near Masirah Island, a French-Japanese consortium Elf-Sunior for the north-west, Wintershall of West Germany off the Bahrah coast and Elf-Aquitaine for

off-shore Musandam. Elf's concession off Musandam in the Strait of Hormuz seems most promising, considering the commercial discoveries in the Iranian half of the same concession. Unfortunately, deposits exist at a depth of 12,000 ft and exploitation may involve very high capital costs.

Oman's relationships with the oil companies are cordial and pragmatic. The Government has resisted the usual regional trend towards full state control and relies on its PDO partners for their technical skill. It is neither a member of Opec nor OPEC does follow OPEC's pricing structure. In 1975, the Government adjusted the level of oil taxes and royalties to the Opec formula of 80 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. Since

1974, Oman has also earned increasing amounts from direct sales which, with a recent agreement with Gulf Oil and C. Itoh, have risen from 5,800,000 barrels in 1974 to 29 million in 1976.

Reserves of associated and unassociated gas are small—about 40 million cu ft—and are insufficient for Oman's tentative long-term plans for petrochemical and fertilizer industries. But plans have gone ahead for the laying of a 300 km pipeline from the Yibal fields to Chabrah near Muscat and the gas will probably be used to run a desalination plant and a cement factory.

The discovery of non-oil mineral resources has substantially brightened the obscured horizon. Proved copper reserves total about 18 million tons with good hopes

for more. Exploitation began in 1977 and a 3,000 tons a day copper smelter will be built at Sohar. The entire development will be handled as a joint venture by the Oman Mining Company in which the Government has a 51 per cent stake and the remainder shared by American and Canadian companies. Ultimate production by 1985 is set at 20,000 tons a year.

Large coal deposits, estimated at 10 million tons, have also been discovered in the mountains above Sohar. The development depends on the building of services, especially roads and ports. There are also substantial deposits of limestone which will be used in the new cement factory at Qurum, asbestos in Sohar, manganese near Sur, marble in the Hajar and phosphates in Dhofar.

Oil	1973	1974	1975	1976
Production (million barrels)	107.0	105.9	124.5	133.8
Exports (million barrels)	106.9	105.8	124.4	133.7
Japan (%)	(35.5)	(35.4)	(37.5)	
Netherlands (%)	(8.1)	(1.8)	(20.5)	
Trinidad (%)		(3.6)	(7.4)	
France (%)	(17.4)	(12.0)	(6.9)	
Britain (%)	(4.5)	(1.4)	(6.8)	
Singapore (%)	5.3	0.9	(5.9)	
Revenues (\$m)	173.3	844.0	1070.0	1362.0

Education and health

It is indicative of the greater social awareness of Sultan Qaboos that 5.4 per cent and 2 per cent of total government development expenditure in 1971-75 went on health and education respectively. Six years ago the country boasted only one hospital, run by American missionaries, and only three schools, educating fewer than 1,000 children. Now Oman has eight district hospitals in the capital area, 11 health centres and about 40 health dispensaries.

It also has 207 schools, of which 181 are primary, 23 are preparatory and three are secondary, educating 55,752 children. There are plans for future growth but the emphasis now is on quality rather than quantity. New school buildings have been cut back from last year's total of 65 to a projected average of 25 a year.

There are two main problems associated with future growth. One is the prohibitive salaries of employing experienced teachers and the second is raising the vocational nature of secondary education. Because of the sharp rise in the cost of education before 1970, the large expenditure on the education of the workforce and potential workforce is illiterate or under-educated. About 85 per cent of the teachers in Oman come from other Arab countries such as Egypt, Jordan and Sudan, but to get them to work in the country high salaries have to be offered.

The average salary is about 150 rials a month (with up to 50 rials extra

offered to teachers who agree to work in the remote rural areas). This salary is four times the average earnings of a teacher in Egypt and constitutes a high recurrent cost on government expenditure each year. Plans are therefore under consideration for three teacher-training colleges which will offer places for 500 men students and 200 women students of which the larger one will be financed 75 per cent by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

On health, future improvements will be concentrated on the provision of health centres and dispensaries but some hospitals will be extended. The number of centres will be increased from 11 to 26 over five years and the number of dispensaries will be increased to 80. The total of six land and sea mobile dispensaries, which came into operation earlier this year, will be increased. All this is to extend the sphere of health care to the remote areas which have not yet benefited sufficiently from the free health service.

The growth in the health sector is also stricken by the lack of qualified nationals. Oman is fortunate to have a considerable leadership now, and to have oil revenue topped up by foreign aid to pay for its development programmes. Oman plans are long-term and expensive and it is indicative of the shortage of skilled manpower that both the education and health sectors will be dependent on expatriate labour for many years.

Telecommunications

The continuing demand for radio, telegraph and telephone equipment in Oman has made this one of the few sectors of the communications industry in which the pace of development has proved astonishing since the start of Sultan Qaboos's reign. Some 3,000 telephones are being installed annually throughout the country, and links now exist in all but the remotest areas of Oman. The installation of modern switch systems at exchanges in Muscat, Matrah and Salalah has made direct dialling possible between the chief towns and cities, where previously links between Salalah's 550 lines and the north were by radio channels only.

Until 1975, international connections relied solely on a 24-circuit booster station at Wadiyah, which relayed calls via high frequency radio channels through Bahrain to other countries. But today, with the aid of a new 60-circuit earth satellite station in the Hajar mountains, which was built by an Indian company and commissioned in November, 1975, Oman is linked by direct dialling to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar.

The pace of development has been much hastened since 1976, when the Government set up a company, Omantel, to run the new telephone system, which by that time had a capacity of some 15,000 lines. Omantel is 40 per cent Government owned, and the remainder held by Cable & Wireless of the United Kingdom, which was originally engaged in operating the re-routed Muscat-Matrah service in the early 1970s.

The management of Omantel was subsequently taken over by Telecoms of the United States and today British and Indian technical skill under American development has proved surprisingly successful in establishing an efficient and comprehensive service. Telex lines have been installed in offices and hotels throughout the chief towns and there are automatic links with the United Kingdom, Bahrain and Dubai.

From two small transmission stations installed at Muscat and Salalah, Oman received its first radio broadcast in 1971, and the network developed under the Ministry of Information and Tourism with the cooperation of more powerful stations at Sib and Salalah.

As a result, national broadcasts transmitted by Radio Oman could be received by 95 per cent of the country by the beginning of 1977. Television programmes were first transmitted in 1974 from a broadcasting station at Kurr. At first they were received in and around the capital only, but the later construction of transmission centres at Sib and Salalah, together with three relay stations strategically positioned, brought reception to the whole of the north and the Dhofar region.

The Government is now concentrating on improving and expanding its colour television services, at present received in the north only, and in extending its public information programmes to assist its education drive.

Air and sea ports

Before the accession of Sultan Qaboos, Oman had one solitary air strip at Bait al Fajal, capable of accommodating only light aircraft. Work began in 1971 on an international airport 28 miles from Muscat, near Sib. The initial work on the runway was completed in 1972 and the following year it was extended and improved to handle even supersonic aircraft. At the same time the passenger and cargo terminal buildings were opened, enabling more than 170,000 passengers and 3,500 tonnes of cargo to be handled by 1976.

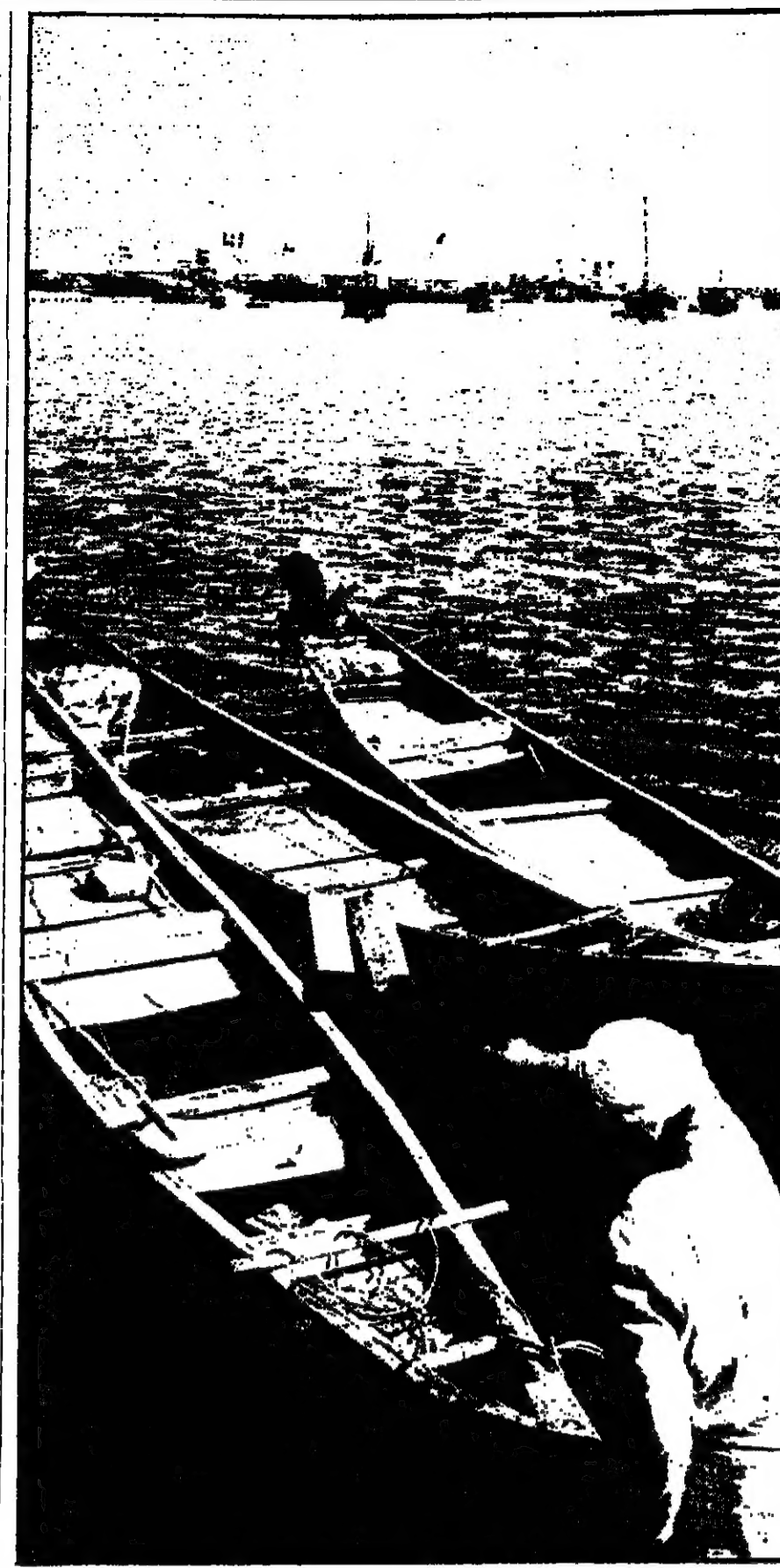
With the acquisition by the Oman Government of a 25 per cent stake in Gulf Air, connections with other Middle East capitals improved dramatically. The air strip at Salalah, once used as a military base only, was also upgraded with the installation of modern equipment and improved runways to handle the high load intensity of jet aircraft. The project, making Salalah Oman's second international airport, was estimated at 15m rials and was awarded to Joannou & Paraskevades of Cyprus.

From Sib and Salalah air services are now running to a total of six small air fields within the country, at Sur, Hasah, Sohar, Nizwa, Buraimi and Thumait. Most of these are still in need of buildings and rather more advanced landing systems, but with the achievements of Sib and Salalah behind it, the Government no longer considers the improvement of its air services to be high on its list of priorities.

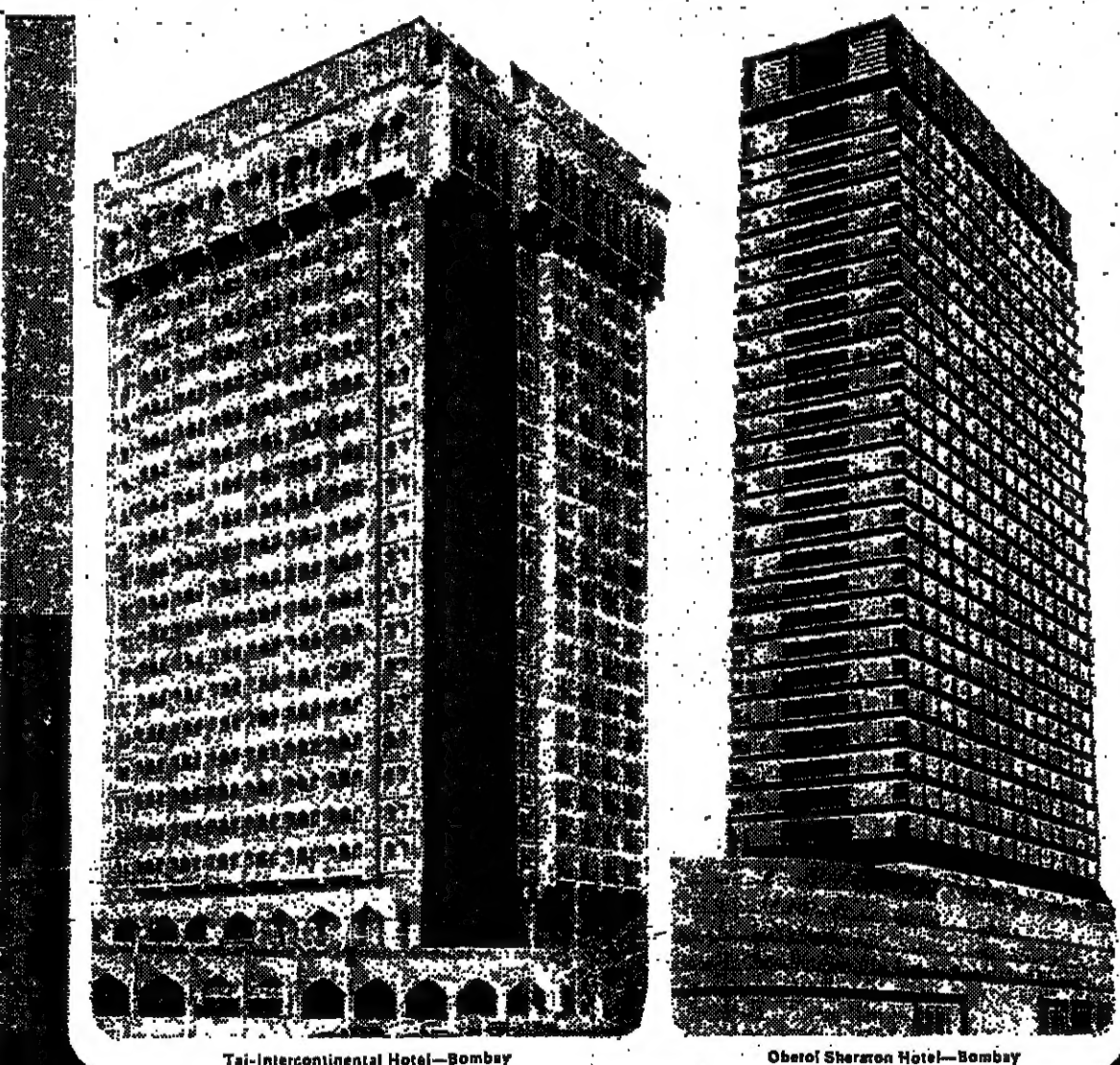
But even more remarkable has been the metamorphosis of Oman's shipping links. A far cry from the time-consuming process of off-loading cargo on to waiting barges in the deep waters outside Muscat, the new harbour at Matrah, built at a cost of \$40m and opened in 1974, handled 556,000 tonnes in its first year of operation, and the figure had risen to 1,200,000 tons a year by 1976.

The purchase of modern cargo handling equipment and extensive work on warehousing facilities has now raised the annual capacity of Mina Qaboos to 1,500,000 tonnes. Today it has 10 deep water berths including a limited container service scheduled for expansion, three coaster berths and a monthly roll-on, roll-off service to Shornham in the United Kingdom, operated by James Glover. Crane capacity has reached 130 tonnes and the Government is considering buying a \$2.4m container crane.

A new port at Raysut has fast become the port for the whole of the Dhofar region since its completion in 1973. Just 154 ships offloaded a total of 223,000 tonnes of cargo in 1976, and the prospect of increased oil exports from the region soon has led to the preparation of detailed feasibility studies on the construction and equipment required. The most recent project in connection with Raysut's development is the construction of new berths near to Salalah to accommodate tankers of up to 45,000 tons. Completion is expected in the mid-1980s.



A Matrah fisherman throws his outboard motor fuel into his boat. In the background is Mina Qaboos.



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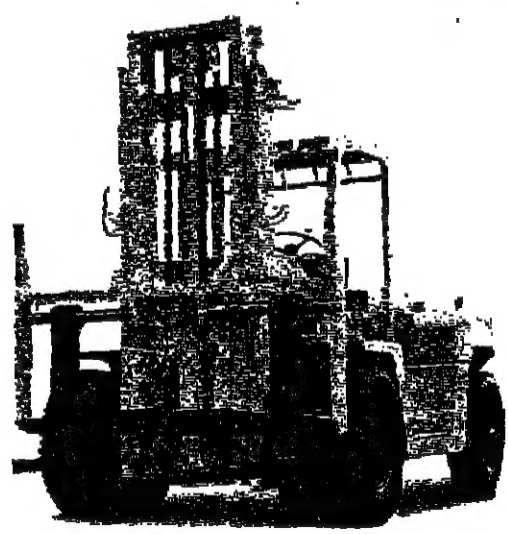
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Wealth of species in danger

by Norma Ashworth

Oman was once not only more fertile than most of Arabia but also richly inhabited by wildlife. The depredations of man and the progressive desiccation of the climate took some centuries to affect both to a profound degree; it is hoped that the last quarter of the twentieth century will find the perfect balance.

A return to fertility has already begun and there is the certainty that with re-afforestation and increasing agriculture, man's needs will be well served long before this century ends. What is perhaps more urgent in view

of the speed of development in the sultanate is the safeguarding of the wild environment. For some species of animal, it is known to be too late to find them in their natural habitat; others long out of sight are believed to have retreated from hunting parties and kept a precarious existence where man finds it difficult to penetrate.

Both to search for and resettle native creatures will take a long time. The number of factors to be considered are labyrinthine and require patient study before Oman can feel content that protection, replenishment and development are in harmony.

An adviser on the preservation and development of

the environment to report directly to the Sultan was appointed three years ago. Mr. Ralph Daly has been made responsible for the delicate task of balancing the rights and needs of the people against a study that beckons the world's experts in the natural sciences. After three years there is considerable progress and still no territorial conflict.

The first general report on Oman's zoological and botanical specimens has been produced this year compiled from the Flora and Fauna Survey of 1975. It will soon have the results of a special Dhofar survey added when the reports of this year's expeditions in the Southern Province are complete.

The compilation of Oman data has given all experts the same problems: imprisely-labelled specimens as rare as the travellers who collected them, found with great difficulty in random collections. The most reliable records of natural history in Arabia generally contain inconsistent references to Oman and only the amateur diarists of the last century, together with the explorers of recent decades, have provided useful observations.

Bird and marine life is possibly the best documented as regards the enumeration of species; the white oryx and Arabian tahr, the best known of the Oman mammals, are the most lamentable near-extinction. Within the past two decades hunting parties from bordering lands can be blamed for wiping out the oryx in slaughter by machine-gun fire from Land-Rovers. Their reintroduction from captive breeding herds (in Kenya, Arizona and Jordan) is being delayed until their future protection in the wild can be assured.

Legislation already exists to protect all types of gazelle, white oryx, ibex and mule deer and the cooperation of tribesmen in the former hunting grounds is being sought. The Hubbara buzzard is also totally protected and once accurate counts have been made, the peregrine and gyrfalcon species of falcon are expected to be added to the list.

Only 20 years ago the explorer Wilfred Thesiger was able to list sightings of huge wild herds of gazelle and oryx and in the Central and Southern Regions he saw wolves, striped hyenas, leopards, wildcats, panthers and an innumerable variety of rodents and amphibians. The birds of Arabia in general were already known but it is only during the past few years that Oman has been found to be on the principal migratory routes from the northern ruddies to Africa. Natives and exotics are increasing year by year as the vegetation and areas of water holes are increased.

The Flora and Fauna Survey of 1975 has brought to light the existence of so many creatures and types of plantlife that Oman is becoming a magnet for specialists. Dr. David Harrison, a leading authority on the mammals of Arabia, says: "Oman has huge areas of unspoilt primeval wilderness. This is a time of great opportunity so that we can act to avoid many of the disastrous mistakes made in other parts of the world."

A paper for the survey on the reptiles and amphibians from the mountains of northern Oman records the presence of rare geckoes and two species previously unreported for central Arabia—the skink *Mabuya tessellata* and viper *Pseudocerastes persicus*. From the freshwater fish surveys it has been possible to add seven important types to the Arab collections in the British Museum.

Observers from the Anti-Locust Research Centre have provided verification on specialised surveys of invertebrates, which have produced large numbers of interesting species of butterfly, moth, scorpion and mite. Parasite studies have also begun.

The beginning of a comprehensive plant survey, being undertaken by J. P. Mandaville junior acknowledges that early collectors were keen and observant but no impression as to location that the search for proof will be long. What reliable data that are available come mainly from the French collector, Aucher-Eloy, who spent a month in Oman in 1838, collected 250 species and died of fever the same year. The generally floristic descriptions of other travellers are found not to be botanically sound, merely abundant. All collections are being made and classified in duplicate so that Oman will keep pace with all discoveries and hold a permanent museum herbarium. The hazards of new building and cultivating development are being monitored closely.

Natural sense of balance

by Paul Munton

When rain falls on Oman, the people say, "Allah karrem" (Allah is generous), for rain is recognized as a seminal gift and not as something that may be taken for granted.

The country is fortunate that in a time of rapid industrial and urban development this attitude of respect is being extended to all the natural riches and beauties with which it is endowed.

The sultanate has a plentiful and diverse flora and fauna, much of it peculiar to Oman, which belies the outsider's view of the country as a desert with spring-based oases. The riches of Oman extend from the mountains to the plains,

and along the coasts into the coral sea.

As Oman continues its development into a modern state, the Sultan has shown great awareness of the need to understand the ecological relationships that sustain and bind the natural life of the country and to take action to conserve or preserve where and when the necessity arises. Such understanding recognizes the compatibility of development and conservation and appreciates that, with wisdom, the benefits of modern technology and the ancient riches of the natural world may be combined to give a country and its people sustained wealth and strength.

This awareness originally manifested itself in the setting up of an office in Muscat as part of the Ministry of Diwan Affairs, which was concerned solely with advising on the conservation, preservation and development of the environment in Oman. Work started with a programme for the survey and identification of the flora and fauna of Oman, which were little known.

In 1975 an expedition collected and identified the animals and plants from two important Jebel areas in the north of Oman. The report of this expedition has just been published and reveals that northern Oman has a unique flora and fauna which has some aspects suggesting that it is a relic from a past age. This year the south of the country, Dhofar, is being surveyed in the same way and this has been an exciting undertaking.

Besides this work two long-term projects are under way, both sponsored jointly by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources together with the World Wildlife Fund, with the Oman Government providing half the funds.

One of the studies is peculiarly Omani—the study of the Arabian tahr, a sort of goat unique to the north of Oman. The other has international implications. This is the study of the turtles that use the beaches of Oman, especially Masirah. Loggerhead turtles, Olive Ridley, hawksbill and green turtles all nest on the island. The adults range widely over the oceans and this work is therefore an integral part of the international effort to conserve the turtle and its habitats all over the world.

Wise use of grazing land by Beduin may be especially

relevant for the survival of the Arabian tahr. This was the subject of the first of the two WWF and IUCN joint projects to set under way in the sultanate. It is directed at the mountainous areas to the north of Oman and its main answers are likely to come from an understanding of the nature of the interaction between the scrub, the intermittent rainfall, the growth of the mountain vegetation and the needs of the Arabian tahr. The results of this project should be as beneficial to domestic stock as to the tahr, since the two appear to have co-existed in the mountains for many centuries.

Other important wildlife projects are planned. The jewel in the crown of Oman conservation may be the re-establishment of the white oryx in the desert fringes which was their last known refuge in the wild. Stocks of the animals are held in several zoos in different countries and it may be possible to acquire some of these to use as a nucleus for a breeding herd to be reintroduced to the wild.

This would also be of direct benefit to the Harasis tribe of the area (which was not responsible for the demise of the white oryx—it was exterminated by the Arabian gazelle from exploitation by other tribes, with the result that their area is now the only one in Oman where this species (also in the World Wildlife Fund red book of endangered species) is still abundant. It may be possible to persuade the Harasis to become as jealous of the well-being of reintroduced oryx. The other important work going on in Oman concerns education, especially of the young people of Oman so that they stand some chance of avoiding the costly mistakes that have marked the advance of technological applications in many countries in the recent past.

With the development of the secondary school curriculum, the opportunity is being taken to introduce sound ecological ideas into biological science teaching.

Dr. Munton is director of a joint World Wildlife Fund conservation project in Oman.

Ministry acquires sailing-ship

If good fortune attends and the last part of the two-month journey is untroubled, a star of today's celebrations in the province of Dhofar will surely be a three-masted top-gallant schooner arriving at Raysut harbour under full sail.

The Youth of Oman is the renamed sail training ship, Captain Scott, which left from her place of origin in Buckie, north Scotland, on September 12, with 20 Omani cadet officers among the crew. The Sultan has given one third of the cost of the ship, his Government the other two thirds, to make a gift to the Ministry of Youth Affairs for an assured future of training and pleasure programmes.

It makes both an agreeable launching symbol of a new ministry (formed by royal decree in April, 1976) and a happier rebirth for a ship fallen into obscurity. The Captain Scott was built in 1971 for the Duleverton Trust and intended for the introduction of longer and tougher training courses than those run in the two earlier sail training vessels—Winston Churchill and Malcolm Miller.

When the ship ran into difficulties principally over industrial concerns' reluctance to lose labour time for so long and rigorous a course, the ship went on to an unscheduled call at Palma for repairs. There opportunity to compete on an equal footing is offered Malta and on the East African coast but the ship was expected to make a spectacular appearance on the southern coast of Oman this morning.

Although the Ministry of Special Responsibility for Youth Affairs was not set up until last year, the groundwork had already been laid through the Ministries of Social Affairs and Labour and Education, which are still linked with projects covering training and recreation. In establishing youth clubs, Oman was following the example of other Arab countries but

was the only one to make them all open to both girls and boys and to finance them entirely.

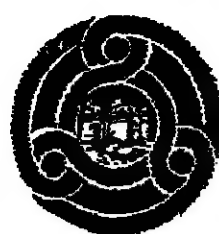
In the past two years, the number of clubs countrywide has doubled to 40. All are given yearly grants of the equivalent of £1,000, provided with their own buses and stocked with books, library and sports equipment. There are also private coaches supplied for teams competing throughout Oman and travelling abroad.

Oman is only slowly entering international sport but there are already promising football and hockey teams taking part in Gulf tournaments. It is hoped to send a national team to compete as well in volleyball and athletics events at the Asian Games to be held in Pakistan next year. The greatest boost to sport in Oman will be provided by Olympic City, sports complex planned to be under construction next year.

The Sultan indicated in his speech on National Day in 1974 that this was a scheme of great importance. It would encompass an ideal of physical fitness and prestige, by which Oman might hope to measure up to the achievements of neighbouring countries with earlier opportunities of development. With the slowing down of national building programmes, the sports complex has had a delayed beginning and many changes of date but the site has been chosen (at al-Khoubra, not far west of Muscat) and there is confidence that it will be a model, unusual in the Gulf.

Sport tends to attract more notice than the other activities of the youth clubs but the cultural and social projects are having equal success. All will be used to judge standards of excellence for the presentation of trophies and certificates in a new scheme based on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Britain. As with everything else in the clubs, the children in the smaller and more remote communities are becoming the teachers of their parents and bringing them into touch with the ways of modern Oman.

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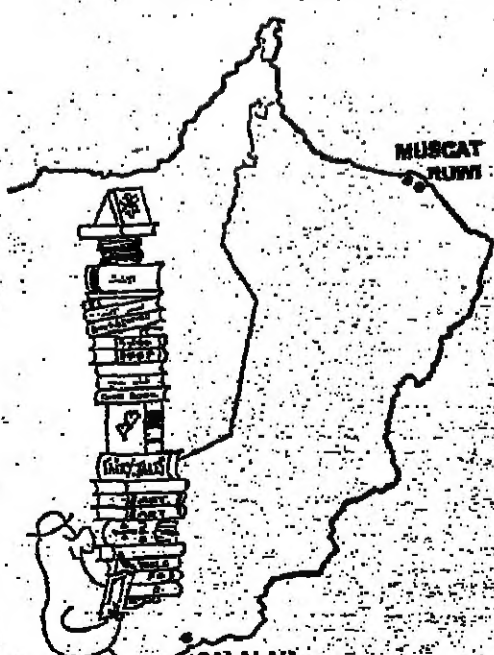
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FOCUS ON

COMMUNICATIONS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Quick flights replace camel trains

by Christopher Walker

No part of Oman's national life suffered more from the determination of the previous Sultan to shut out the twentieth century than its internal and external communications.

Today's visitor being whisked from Sib international airport along a dual carriageway in an air-conditioned taxi would find it hard to believe that seven years ago the highway did not exist and there were only 5km of paved road in the entire sultanate, the second largest country in the Arabian peninsula.

Many Omanis still talk with pride and some amazement about their country's achievement in improving internal travel and connections with the outside world. Until the late 1960s, a journey to Dubai would have taken a wearisome two weeks by camel train, whereas a traveller now can choose between a 40-minute flight or a four-hour car journey.

Work on the country's

main airport at Sib, a sensible 30km from the capital, Muscat, began even before the Government of Sultan Qaboos had reaped the full benefit from the oil boom. Built by the Cypriot contractors of Joannou and Paraskevaides, the runway was completed in 1972, and a year later the terminal buildings were opened.

For pilots and passengers alike the inauguration brought much relief, as previous incoming flights had had to include a hair-raising descent over the jagged mountains which surrounded the only airport, at Bait-el-Falaj. Now the latter has been turned into a new town, and on holidays bizarre cricket matches between teams of Indian and Pakistani expatriates take place on the remaining air-strip.

During 1976 Sib averaged a monthly total of 3,000 aircraft movements and received 172,000 incoming passengers. The percentage of arrivals has increased substantially during the first six months of this year, but the incidence of delays caused by local factors remains small. One reason is the almost perfect

weather conditions. Dust either at the country's main airport, at Muscat, which was opened in August, 1974. Before then, all goods imported into Oman had to make the precarious journey ashore by lighter and costly losses and breakages often resulted.

Much of the operation of the airport is in the hands of expatriates, with Pan American in charge of air traffic control, airfield maintenance and customs. Because of Sib's location, just south of the main east-west air routes, the Omani authorities are hoping to encourage more international stopovers over the much-needed hotel space has been provided for the crews. But at present the airport suffers from the airlines' traditional preference for Bahrain.

Plans are now in hand for an extension to the runway at Sib, improved electrical generating capacity and further extensions to terminal buildings. In Dhofar, improvements to the airport at Salalah have recently been completed as part of a 50m rial project which has given the airport international status for the first time. There are no delays for passengers and freight,

either at the country's main seaport, at Muscat, which was opened in August, 1974. Before then, all goods imported into Oman had to make the precarious journey ashore by lighter and costly losses and breakages often resulted.

Named after the ruler, the port complex—modern in design—contains 12 berths, nine of which are deepwater. Early bottlenecks were eliminated when a double shift system was introduced in 1975, and apart from the traditionally difficult period at the end of the Ramadan fast, the average period for unloading is now down to two days. Over the next few years productivity is expected to improve further with the introduction of roll-on-roll-off facilities.

Last year Port Qaboos Muscat received 1,100,000 tons of cargo, compared with 220,000 tons landed at the southern port of Raysut, built only 8km from Salalah and now the subject of a rapid development programme because of the recent announcement that it will play an important part in the new \$300m oil drill-

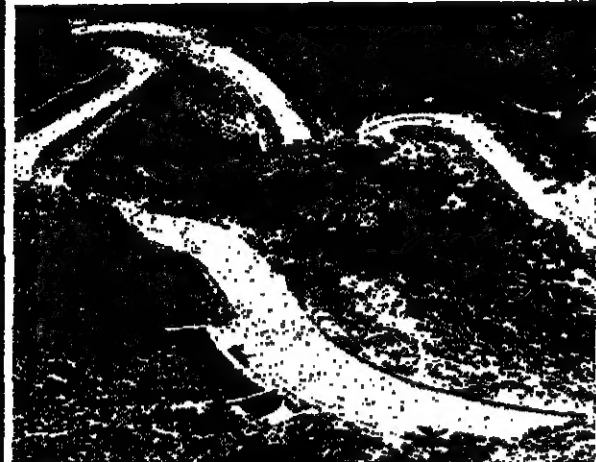
ing project which is due to start in Dhofar next January.

One of the main benefits of the rapid improvement in communications has been the lift which it has given to efforts to integrate and unify the various regions of Oman. Nowhere has this been more obvious than in road-building, which has received a much larger share of the national development budget than either the seaports or airports. The emphasis placed on construction in this sector followed the successful example set by Saudi Arabia in the 1960s.

The wide social and economic implications of this programme are frequently noted by foreign diplomatic observers. The statistics tell their own story. By the summer of 1977, the original total of 5km of paved road had been extended by 1,257km and in addition the country had 8,500km of graded roads, with others of both varieties still under construction in various areas, including parts of the remote Dhofar jebel which until recently were in rebel hands.



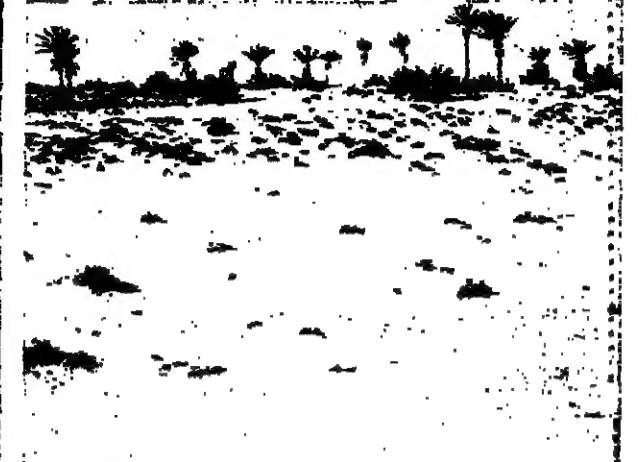
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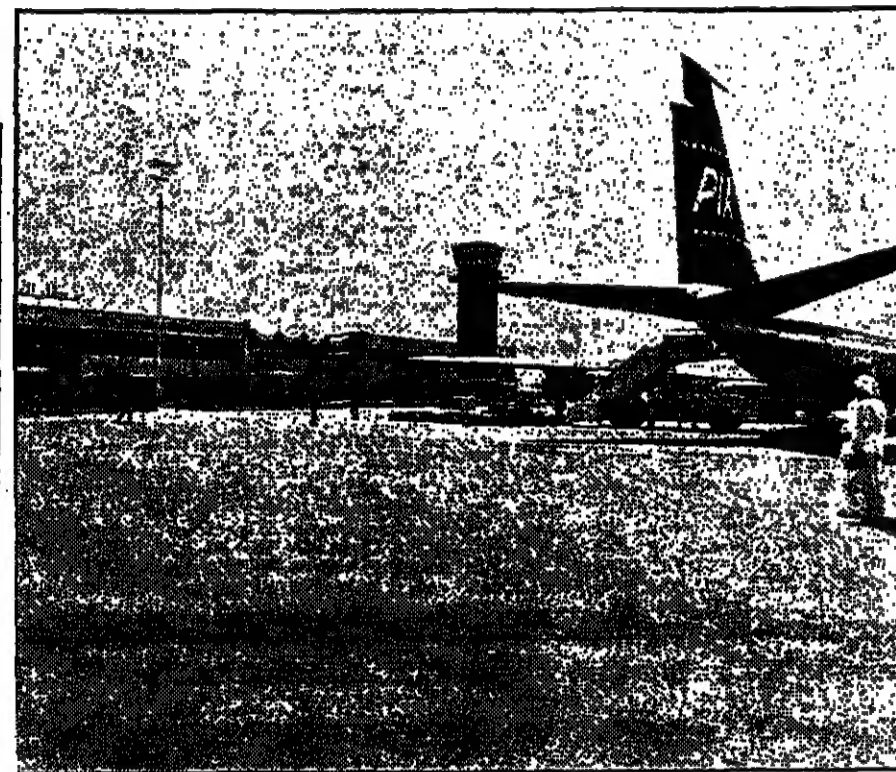
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Sib international airport. Its sitting out hair-raising descents.

Lines are always busy

by John Whelan

The state-controlled Oman telecommunications (Omantel) has one of the more thankless tasks of a developing state. The demand for telephone lines and telefax is insatiable and the frustrations of dialling even in the capital are legion. The most common response by a hotel switchboard is: "Sorry the line is busy."

Part of the explanation lies in the fact that Omantel is not a private company and is therefore working within the strict confines of a budget and in particular the strictures on spending laid down by the five-year plan.

According to government statistics there were 6,649 telephone lines at the end of 1976. By the beginning of this month the number had risen to 15,960 which is close to the 16,000 calling to be installed under present contracts. Most of the contracting work so far has been done by L. M. Ericsson, of Sweden, which is among the parties interested in a 7,000-line extension of the network in the capital and Salalah. Omantel is now evaluating bids for the contract and expects this to get going in the new year.

Specifications are also being prepared for an extension of the telex network which at present comprises 335 outlets in the capital and Salalah put together.

The five-year plan allows a total of 3m rials to be spent on telephone development in the capital area and 3.4m rials for development in the interior including the Musadum enclave which is not at present joined to the telephone network. This excludes 800,000 rials which has been set aside for earth satellite stations.

Omantel's management is 60 per cent controlled by the government and 40 per cent by Cable & Wireless but Noor Mohammad, general manager of Omantel, says the authority's capital is 100 per cent government-controlled. He reports as general manager to the Minister of Communications and says that spending is strictly in line with the plan.

Before Omantel was established in August 1975 the telephone network was run by Cable & Wireless but was restricted largely to Muscat

and Muscat. Now it extends through the Ruwi Valley to Sib and up the Batinah Coast to Kharat al Malah on the northern border with Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates. The rural exchanges extend west to Buraimi and south from Buraimi to Ibril. The eastern triangle of the country around Sur is also serviced. Salalah was until the middle of this month linked to the north by radio but as from National Day Omantel was planning to improve communications by using a 24-circuit satellite booster station to relay calls by way of the Atlantic satellite.

International calls are routed through an earth satellite station in the Hajir Mountains which was built by STS of Italy. It is linked through the Indian Ocean satellite. Omantel says the satellite station now has 72 circuits. More can be added to meet demand until 1980. Direct dial exists through earth links with the UAE but for most other international calls the links are semi-automatic, meaning that only the operator can dial direct. Waiting time for London calls average about 45 minutes unless there are exceptional circumstances. Telecoms of the United States has provided consular telefax service for the earth satellite station and has had some trained staff on secondment.

Development will now take place first in the capital and at Salalah where the twin business centres of Oman have coalesced. Omantel considers the interior network sufficient for the present while acknowledging that there are gaps. It plans soon to implement work on connecting the Musadum enclave with the outside world.

Without the financial resources of its rich neighbour the UAE, whose telecommunications authority Emirat has raised capital this year in the Euro market, Omantel has to move slowly. There is also an emphasis on training Omani technicians and engineers as it builds a country with a large and willing workforce.

For the visitor trying for the tenth time in a morning to get a ministry or public service call, the story that some businessmen in Oman hire small boys to dial numbers continuously begins to sound less and less apocryphal.



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FOCUS ON

SPORT, EXPATRIATES AND CUSTOMS

Football fever brings now familiar troubles

by Christopher Walker

As the experience of other oil-rich Gulf states has already demonstrated, football fever has now become as inevitable a by-product of the modernization of traditional Arab society as concrete office blocks and air-conditioned limousines.

Unlike its two northern neighbours, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the sultanate of

Oman has not yet hit the international soccer headlines by buying into the cream of British football management. But it is still no exception to the general rule. Eighteen months ago, after the budding national team put up a lacklustre performance in the Gulf Cup, the Sultan decided that it was time to acquire a full-time English coach.

The man selected was Jeff Butler (known affectionately to his players as "Mr Jeff"), a hardy professional who had previously

enjoyed a successful but not spectacular career with Norwich City and Notts County. "Our first aim was to develop sport in the country," a government official explained. "To do that we needed a man who was prepared to water the pitch and even mark out the lines. The Don Revie of this world are above that sort of thing."

Already the English influence combined with irreplaceable local enthusiasm has led to the formation of the first

national Omani league along formal Football Association lines. In spite of the obvious geographical problems, two divisions have now been established and when the new season began late in September, the authorities were caught unaware when an unheard-of crowd of over 3,000 turned out for the opening game.

The wave of football mania has brought in its wake problems that are already depressingly familiar in Europe, and the Omani police are now

having quickly to learn the rudiments of crowd control. So far the matches of the 1977 season have passed without serious incident, but officials are keenly aware that fixtures between teams from different tribes could inflame traditional hostilities.

The full extent of the achievements already attained in sport is highlighted by the formidable of the relentless sunshine, which have had to be overcome. Although football matches do not kick off until late

afternoon, they often take place on stony pitches in energy-sapping temperatures of more than 90°. So far the only grass pitch in the sultanate is to be found at the large national police stadium at Wazzeyah. It was constructed at a cost of 180,000 rials with grass flown in from South America in deep-frozen containers. Because of the impressive and incongruous looking rectangle of green turf has to be reseeded for a minimum of three

days between each game. Next July work is to begin on a national sports centre to be known as Olympic City. The fact that it will cost an estimated 13m rials is a reflection of the deep personal interest taken in the development of sport by the Ruler, Sultan Qaboos Bin Said. When built, the complex will house a 45,000-seater stadium, an Olympic size pool and accommodation for up to 450 visiting athletes.

Although football is now far and away the most popular Omani sport, hockey is

ming and athletics—the last of the games with the longest local history. Reflecting the strong Indian influence in many parts of the sultanate, records show that the first Arab hockey games took place in Muscat more than 40 years ago. Today the game has become unfashionable among the young, and many of its remaining devotees are fast approaching middle age.

Other sports being vigorously encouraged by the Ministry for Youth Affairs are volleyball, swim-

ing and athletics—the last of the games with the longest local history. Reflecting the strong Indian influence in many parts of the sultanate, records show that the first Arab hockey games took place in Muscat more than 40 years ago. Today the game has become unfashionable among the young, and many of its remaining devotees are fast approaching middle age.

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Salaries compensate for arduous conditions

Although British connections with Oman stretch back to the Napoleonic wars, even as recently as 13 years ago the size of the expatriate community was so small that its members could all be invited to attend the Queen's birthday party on the shaded veranda of the embassy.

"In those days we were just like one big and usually very happy family", commented a diplomat who was based in Muscat at the time. The exploitation of oil and the repressive and reactionary Sultan Said Bin Taimur, has changed the picture completely. At the last count the number of British residents registered with the embassy numbered nearly 5,000, but that is generally regarded as an underestimate of the total number living in the sultanate.

Until the 1970 coup, British residents were required by the Sultan's order to live within the walled city of Muscat, a measure which was claimed was taken for their own protection. Today they are scattered in every corner of the country, often living and working in arduous conditions.

Perhaps the most isolated Briton of all is Mr Michael Freeman, a bony Dorset-born civil engineer who is supervising the construction of a school in the former rebel-held coastal village of Rakhyut, about 25 miles from the border with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The sole European living in the ragged collection of shell-scarred buildings, Mr Freeman's only contact with the outside world is by way of a rough airstrip. But for four months of the year this is cut off by thick monsoon clouds, leaving only the occasional and risky helicopter visit to replenish the deep freeze in his makeshift white caravan.

Like many other Britons working to help to build Oman's vital social and economic basic services, the affable Mr Freeman is candid about his motivation. "I am here for the money, which is better than I could earn anywhere else in the world and is completely tax free", he said.

"My goal is simply to pay off the mortgage on an £18,000 house that I have bought in Swansea. Last

year I repaid half and by the end of next summer the debt should be forgotten."

In stark contrast to the mental and physical hardships endured by field engineers like Mr Freeman, many of the British expatriates working in the north of Oman enjoy the kind of comfortable, post-colonial existence which is still experienced by foreigners in many parts of the world.

Air conditioning in cars and houses now helps to ameliorate the blistering summer temperatures of more than 120°F which quite often killed expatriates in the past.

Three first-class hotels with pool clubs and a safe beach exist in the capital area, and despite the strict Islamic convictions of the Omani, fewer restrictions are imposed on outsiders than in most of the other Gulf states.

The one factor which differentiates expatriate life in Oman from that in some other developing countries is the unusually high proportion of bachelors, many of whom live in army-style messes although they work for civilian firms. The reason is the impossibility of

forming relationships with the local women, and an unofficial estimate of the ratio of men to women in the expatriate community is 34 to one.

It is reflected constantly in conversation, in the special arrangements made at dinner parties to accommodate single men and the deterrent charge of £15 a head imposed on them at one of the country's two discotheques.

For families living in modern houses and flats in the new urban complex of Ruwi, the main problems centre on the high cost of everyday living and the almost complete absence of Western cultural facilities.

In spite of the generous local salaries and the absence of tax, prices—such as imported steak at £7.50 a kilo, eggs at £1.40 a dozen and a loaf of bread at 65p—can make the weekly budget hard to balance.

But every British housewife I questioned seemed happy enough to endure local difficulties in exchange for the guarantee of a year-round sunbathe.

C. W.

Etiquette essential for success

by Norma Ashworth

The unfailing courtesy of an Omani would never allow a visitor to know when he had given offence, so that the niceties of behaviour are learnt almost by chance. There is so much tolerant latitude given to a foreigner that a serious lapse of behaviour might occur inadvertently and the consequences of withdrawn privileges come as a surprise.

When it was suggested some years ago that any future guidebook would need to include a comprehensive chapter on etiquette, an eminent Omani demurred. He suggested that civilized behaviour was universal and there was nothing intricate in the Omani code.

Such is evidently the view of the French compiler of the first tourist booklet dealing with Oman to come on to the market. The celebrated *Guides Bleus* series will include Oman as the thirteenth in its list. The book will be published late this year, well in advance of any tourist trade. Its introduction asserts that the people, although modern in outlook, have preserved the traditions of incomparable discretion, hospitality and warmth of welcome.

An earlier book of advice to businessmen hoping to make useful deals in the Middle East generally was more specific. For instance, as an inviolate duty by the rules of hospitality. However impoverished a man may be, he must offer a stranger at least coffee.

There is a perfect illustration in the story of an old man insisting upon making coffee for the police before allowing them to take him from his home under arrest. Custom says that one is expected to take no fewer than three cups before indicating by waggling the tiny handle-less cups that one has been well refreshed.

The idea persists abroad that at a grand feast where a roast goat or sheep is served in pieces on a mound of rice, the honoured guest will be compelled to eat the eyeballs of the animal. Perhaps it happened in the past but the Omani, ever sensible of foreign foibles, would never allow ritual to count above a guest's comfort and people with long experience of Oman have never seen the eyeballs on the *khuazi* (the meat and rice meal served with many side dishes).

There is even a polite way of declining to take more of any sweetmeats or cakes. Merely to place a finger above the plate indicating one piece and withdrawing the hand suggests the desire without the capacity.

The use of only the right hand during an Arab meal is an observance well known; less so, is the offence caused by the showing of the soles of one's feet. Europeans, unaccustomed to sitting

gracefully on the floor, are excused if their contraptions bring feet into prominence. However, it is considered impolite to cross one's legs and swing one's foot negligently while sitting in a chair.

Formality is the prerogative of the male. The women, because their role in public has been slight until the present day, have less rigidly defined standards of social behaviour. They were traditionally strictly segregated but lived lives of uncomplaining felicity, wielding a substantial share of domestic power behind the scenes. They know—and enjoyed—their place and were generally unresentful of the division of authority and absence of public standing.

The changing times of modern Oman are likely to cause the total lapse of segregation within a generation. This will apply only to the larger areas of population where the adoption of more relaxed customs and practices of the outside world has been rapid.

It continues to be the custom to separate the men and women as they arrive at formal parties and all Omani homes reserve the majlis (main reception hall) for the men and purdah quarters for the women. Parties held by foreigners are not required to follow such a rule and it is no longer unusual to see Omani

wives unveiled in mixed company. One Omani man has explained that the old style of social gathering is likely to be preferred and for this reason he has installed two television sets in his house. As an afterthought, he admitted that in the majlis, the set was a colour one; the ladies would have only black and white.

Foreigners are still unprepared for what seems like a primitive intrusion into modern liberalism when, for instance, a sheltered enclosure is provided for veiled women at public gatherings. The National Day celebrations are watched by mixed crowds in grandstands and from open tiers of seats, yet there is always a separate box veiled in gauze from which the royal ladies and others close to the court watch. The cinema, which have existed in Oman for only four years, also have screened enclosures for women who are unwilling to accept the new freedom.

According to Islam, a man may have up to four wives at any one time, but Omani seem to prefer monogamy. This has simplified the gradual adoption of new standards of life which might otherwise have proved difficult. Muhammad, has decreed that all wives must be treated in every way equally—a dictum easier to follow while expectations of wealth and personal requirements were more predictable.

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